Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

January, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 1

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

Hello, and welcome to 1996. As we start the new year off there are American troops in Bosnia, budget negotiations are still taking place and poor Sen. Alfonce D'Amato is still looking for a Democrat to hang, but best of all VVA #1 is alive and well and growing. We are closing in on 90 members. At our last meeting we had two new people send in their applications. One of those new members is Michael Kelly of Fair Haven. Michael is the nephew of our secretary, Bill Barnes. Our newest member left of Bosnia on January 6th. He is attached to the 1st Armored Calvary. Michael will be keeping us updated on the events that transpire over there. Once we get his address we should make a point of beginning a letter writing campaign. We all wish Mike the best of luck, and may God speed.

Notes from our last Meeting

Our meeting was well attended inspite of the latest snowfall. I would like to see an increase in attendance at our meetings, so I gave each of the members present the name of some one in their area. It will be their responsibility to contact this person and inform them of our meeting date and encourage them to attend. It would be nice to see some new faces and old ones, too. I'm sure that there are people out there with some great ideas that they would like to share with the rest of us..

Kym Hoerr has volunteered to be our first ever advertising salesperson and bonifide news person. Several ideas for stories were suggested, one of which is stories of our members and their experiences either while in service or their lives after.

During the month of November, 1996 VVA #1 has been asked to put together a display of our organization. This display will be in the Green Mountain Bank on West Street in Rutland. Frank Bump will be chairing the committee organizing this project. If you are interested please contact VVA #1.

We spent a good part of the meeting brainstorming about fund-raising. Jon Pintello announced that he has approached two local pubs and they have agreed to allow rip-off tickets to be sold in their establishments with VVA #1 as recipients of the receipts. Jon will be looking into this in more detail.

Our next meeting will be held on Feb. 1, 1996 at 6:00 PM. We will meet at Sewards Family Restaurant on North Main Street, in Rutland. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Let me close by wishing you all the best in the new year.

John

Membership Notes

MEMBERS...by the time you receive this newsletter you should have dues renewal notices from National. Please submit renewal form and payment to the Chapter address and we will submit them to National as they are received. Take a close look at 3 year membership, it saves you $10 and cuts future paperwork down considerably! REMINDERS...If you do not received membership card, Veteran magazine, or if you change your address, please let me know so I can address the problem.

Bill Orr, Jim Howley, MGN Donald Edwards, BGN Thomas O'Donovan have transferred to the St. Albans Chapter. Thanks for your past support to Chapter 1!

Let's Hear From...

Any member that has an issue or idea that they'd like to discuss!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Gulf War Syndrome Resolution Introduced by Rep. Maslack

The following resolution was drafted and presented to the House of Representatives on January 12, 1996 by Rep. Fred Maslack of Poultney.

Whereas, of the approximately 700,000 American soldiers who faithfully served their country during the Gulf War of 1991, over 467,000 have applied for veterans' disability status based on their having suffered fro a wide range of illnesses collectively labeled "Gulf War Syndrome" since returning home, and

Whereas, the symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome include muscle and joint pain, memory loss, intestinal and heart problems, fatigue, running noses, urinary urgency, diarrhea, nervous afflictions, rashes and sores, and

Whereas, a large body of evidence links symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome to exposure to chemical warfare agents and biological toxins during the Gulf War, and

Whereas, United States' forces on the front lines of the war, reported that chemical alarms sounded after incoming missiles exploded and service personnel were ordered to wear chemical protective gear, and

Whereas, United Nations' inspection teams following the war inventoried and destroyed artillery weapons and missiles armed with war heads with chemical and biological agents in Iraq, and

Whereas, a panel of experts convened by the National Institutes of Health has recommended a "vigorous study" of the Gulf War illnesses, and

Whereas, as a result of growing concerns expressed by Gulf War Veterans, the President has appointed a Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the Vermont General Assembly requests that the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses give careful consideration to the accumulated evidence that demonstrates the wide prevalence of war related illnesses among the veterans of the Gulf War, and be it further

Resolved: That the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veteran' Illnesses recommend to the President that the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs be required to provide free medical services to all veterans who suffer from Gulf War Veterans Syndrome, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, the Vermont Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, the U.S. Surgeon General and the Vermont Adjutant General.

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

Has Relocated To

13 Center Street

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets

10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron

Owner

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Honor the Vet Program

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Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

VET NET Report

by Bill Barnes

It's newsletter time again and also time for a report to all of you on my activities. This past month has been productive and the months to come show great promise.

First, I have written many letters to our local school boards concerning our proposed program on current and past veteran's history. This is actually a civic duty and definitely our responsibility.

So far I have only received one response and that was from RJHS principal Sanford Bassett. That response was negative but did leave the door open for future negotiations. With that response I decided the proper course of action would be to get on the agenda of our next school board meeting. That was done on January 9, 1996.

Another activity has been a letter writing campaign to many of our Senators and Representatives. The issues discussed in those letters range from the Bosnian fiasco to the budget cuts in VA programs. The "Gulf War Syndrome" was at the top of my list. We have a vet in serious trouble because the VA says the disease does not exist. She is having problems getting the one drug that can relieve the extreme symptoms she suffers from. She could use you moral support so write her or call her if you can. Phone (802) 482-3834 or write RR#2, Box 3005-C4, Lyman Meadows, Hinesburg, VT, 05461. I am not alone in my efforts to get this lady treatment. Others have joined the fight including attorneys and other radio and newspaper people.

Of course you all realize the truth about the biological weapons used against our troops is not being released. At least 18 biologicals manufactured in this country were used on our people. I have proof of that statement and our Senators and Representatives have been told officially and have been told also not to tell us stupid Americans because we could not handle the truth. Listen fellow veterans!!! I need you to write and call those who claim to represent us. If we make a big enough stink maybe we'll be able to save some lives.

President Clinton vetoed the pay increase for active duty personnel and also stopped the increases our military people need for housing. I am being stone walled in my attempt to find out how many military people currently serving are on welfare. This is another national disgrace. Never fear!!! I'll get that info and use it to try to shame those *!*"@#$% into action. No way I could use that word in a newsletter!

My national radio program on the Eagle Radio Network is doing very well. We will soon be able to broadcast on an FM frequency in the Rutland area. All I need to do is pay the repair costs on a dish and receiver that have been given to my program. I'll keep you updated.

I believe I've taken up enough space in our newsletter for this month. I do promise to send a monthly report to our editor so as to keep you all updated. Keep the faith and God Bless.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 1ST, 6:00 PM

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
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Honor the Vet Program welcomes 3 new businesses

This month VVA #1 is happy to welcome 3 new businesses to the Honor the Vet Program.

The first is the Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen located at 21 Center Street in Downtown Rutland. Owner Scott Clark renovated and reopened the Back Home Cafe after the fire in the Eagle's Club forced the closing of Clem's Kitchen. Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 7 days a week, the Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen is offering 20% off all food items anytime they are open.

Our next new business is Eastman's, Merchant's Row, Rutland. Featuring a wide variety of supplies for artists and crafters, Eastman's also has greeting cards, paper, pens, and too much more to mention! They are offering a 10% discount on anything except custom framing.

The last of our new businesses is The Vacant Chair Restaurant. A relatively new establishment, it is located at 121 West Street, Rutland. Owners Cynthia Wierzbicki and Heidi Holliger have created a different eating experience. They feature fresh American cooking with a Civil War theme. Entrees start at $7.25, and they are offering a 25% discount all the time.

Be sure to patronize these new businesses and all of the other members of the Honor the Vet Program.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES

P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:___ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____ New____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Stamps for the Wounded

Reprinted from The Maple Leaf News, Vermont Maple Leaf Chapter 100, Women's Army Corp Veterans Association, November 1995

This is a program started during WWII when we had so many wounded soldiers and sailors in VA hospitals recovering from war injuries. Stamp collecting was introduced to help give these veterans an interest and hopefully a hobby they could continue to enjoy after their return to their homes.

It is sponsored by the Lions Clubs and Professional Stamp Collectors. The headquarters in in Virginia, all stamps are forwarded to them who in turn distribute them to VA hospitals in the program. In addition to teaching the patients about stamp collecting, when many stamps of one design are received (such as the flag stamps) therapists help the mentally impaired with activities such as making picture frames, covering notebooks, etc. with these stamps.

This program is still active and stamps are very much needed.

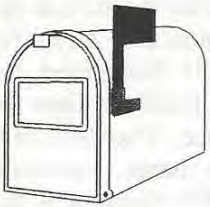
Please save and send stamps to:

Chief, Recreation Services (11-K)
VA Medical Center Stamp Club
Richmond, VA 23249

February Meeting Scheduled for Thursday Night, February 1st

The next meeting of VVA #1 will be held on Thursday night, February 1st, 1996 at 6 p.m. at Seward's Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland. There are lots of projects in the works, and we need all the participants we can get! Attend the meeting and see how you can help!

Send your news to:
VVA Chapter One
Attn: Newsletter
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

Valentine's Day
February 14th

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

February, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 2

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

Believe it or not, but we are only one and one half months away from our annual meeting and elections. So if there are any brave souls who would like to run for an office, please send your intentions to our nomination chairperson, Beth Higgins, c/o VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701. The following offices are open for nominations: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five members which will belong to the Board of Directors. The only criteria involved is the following: an individual member in good standing. That is all there is to it, so I encourage anyone who is interested to step forward and give it a shot.

I have been President of this great chapter for two years now and feel that it is time for some fresh blood to hold this office. I have enjoyed my tenure as President of the first chapter in the nation and I know that out there somewhere there is a budding and daring individual that would make a superb president, so step forward and lead. The job does not pay well, but the bennies are great. Your position as president is not difficult because there is a great support staff. So do not feel that you will have to bear the burden.

Having said that I get to my next point. For those of you who are so inclined as to get me a "leaving office gift" here is my suggestion. I would like to see the membership of VVA #1 reach the century point. We are fairly close to that now. If you are presently a member please renew and while you are doing that you could encourage a relative or friend to join. Let me review for you the membership classifications. Individual membership is open to anyone who served in the U.S. military during the period of January 1, 1959 to May 7, 1975, or in the Indochina Theater irrespective of time in service. The second category is the Associate membership. This includes everyone else, military or non-military. The only real difference between the two is that the associate members can not vote or hold an office. I would like to see that change. If it means doing something very unpresidential, like getting on my knees and groveling and pleading I will do it. There is my pitch so please DON'T LET ME DOWN!!

Starting this August 10th and every August 10th hence forth will be officially proclaimed Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day in Vermont. The Boys and Girls in Montpelier have requested that the Agency of Transportation place a sign on I89 to signify that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located at the Sharon rest area.

Our next meeting will be held on March 7th, 1996 at 6:00 pm. Please note the change in location. We will meet at the Back Home Cafe, 21 Center Street, Downtown Rutland. They are located on the second floor, so if that is going to be a problem for some of you there is an elevator available. You will need to call ahead so that the elevator will be waiting for you. The phone number is 775-9313. The Back Home is a member of the Honor the Vet program and gives all vets a 20% discount.

Hope to see you there for some good food and good company.

John

The Tri-State and New England Chapters of the 25th Infantry Division Association will be holding a weekend get-together at the Ramada Inn in Kingston, NY on the weekend of June 7-9, 1996. For more info, contact: Richard Ziemba, 373 Country Rd., W. Wareham, MA 02576.

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A VERMONT VETERANS' CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

At our February meeting we were fortunate enough to have Jim Radar join us. For those of you who do not know Jim, he is the Veterans Rep for Bernie Sanders. He was also one of the original members. Jim brought along some copies of Bernie's brochure *A Special Focus on Veterans' Issues,* which contained the following letter.

A VERMONT VETERANS'
CONTRACT WITH AMERICA
May 13, 1995
An excerpt from a letter by Frank Black of Rutland, Vt

Dear Congressman Sanders:

On December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor, I went to the Marine Corps Recruiting Station and raised my right hand and made a contract with America. In the hell that was the culture shock of Parris Island, I was sustained by my obligation in my contract with America. In the waters of the South Pacific, dominated by the Japanese Fleet, going to the Solomon Islands, I was ever mindful of my contract with America.

On the LCVP assault boat headed to the beach, every man dealt with gut wrenching fear in his own way. Fixing bayonets and kneeling to put armor plating between us and the machine gun fire, we waited for the boat to touch the beach. The boat grounded, bow ramp splashed down, and the first wave of troops raced ashore and stepped over the men who fell face down in the surf never to rise again. We charged, didn't falter - - we had a contract with America.

Incoming artillery sounds like a steam locomotive, a split second of silence, and the explosion slams into you. The shock of the shrapnel dulled the pain, yet the arm was useless. How could I carry my rifle? My buddies shared my concern. Fellow Marines helped be back to our front lines. When the Japanese bombed the Field Hospital on the beach, I was reassured by my contract with America.

Months in the hospital, several futile operations later, "You're on your own." Back in "civvies", you begin the task of putting your life in order. You fight with the VA to get the moral obligation of you contract with America. You take your pittance and get to work. That's not easy with an arm nearly useless. Hell, you can't even make love to your wife in a comfortable manner.

You live with pain every day. "You'll have to learn to live with it, and it will get worse as you get older." It did, and I did. When it gets more than you can bear, you go back to O.R. to try something else. Nothing helps. More than fifty years have passed, and now our leaders say that the tax burden they bear is too costly. Slash - cut - trim, make everyone take a share of pushing the wagon. Our allotted span has about run out.

Sincerely,
Franklin Black, Rutland, VT

Downtown Has Sole
formerly
Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair
Has Relocated To
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Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait
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VET NET Report

by Bill Barnes

This month has been a particularly productive one as a good deal has happened concerning not only Vietnam Vets, but Vets in general.

On January 25th I watched five Gulf War Vet's talking about their symptoms and problems which have come up since their return home. The "Gulf War Syndrome" is a reality and those veterans are trying to get our own Gov't to take the action necessary to have these people treated at our VA Hospitals at no charge to them.

General Edwards made a stern statement on behalf of the veterans who served in the Mid-East. He stood with them firmly in support of their receiving the best possible treatment efficiently and quickly. He acted as if he were even surprised that the VA is not moving faster on this issue as I'm sure he remembers Agent Orange. Personally I was very much encouraged by the coverage given by a major news show on a major network. Now we need RESULTS, RESULTS, RESULTS!!!

Speaking of results, I am happy to report some positive results on the issue of presenting veteran's perspectives on the Vietnam era. When the three of us vets walked into the classroom at Rutland High School we were confronted by two examples of life in the 1960's. One poster was of the Rosa Parks story with many photos etc., the other poster just about floored me. In great big red letters were the two word My Lai!!! That was the view of Vietnam Veterans the kids were exposed to. Also a Mr. Costello told us he had shown a couple of films for the kids to reference. "Born on the 4th of July" and "JFK" were the films he picked to give the students a peek at the 60's.

Retired Colonel Joe Acinapura, Joel Williams and myself made up the contingent making the presentation. We talked with two classes, a total of about 45 students. I believe we generated a genuine interest in the truth about Vietnam and the general attitude of Americans at that time. We were bombarded with questions which is why I think the classes were truly interested. As yet there has been little feedback, however, I did speak with David Wolk, the assistant superintendent of schools and the Principal of Rutland High. Mr. Wolk's daughter was a member of the second class we spoke with and she reported that the program was interesting and held their attention. She did say we covered an awful lot of material in a short period of time. Well, to cover ten years of war in an hour is a difficult task to say the least. We hope we have generated enough interest to be invited to go and speak with other students throughout the county.

As for my amateur radio career?? We now have the receiver and hardware in our possession but still wait for the dish to be able to broadcast the Eagle Radio Network in the Rutland area. Soon folks, soon. My show, "Veteran's Perspective" is on weekdays from 7:30-9:00 each morning. I'll surely let everyone know as soon as we're up and running. The "Vet Net" program is doing very well and I am getting better at researching topics discussed on the show. Tune in! I am very interested in the opinion of veteran listeners. Of course these radio programs are call in shows and your participation is always welcomed. The number for the Eagle program is (8002) 455-6337. Everyone is urged to call about any subject they feel like discussion. The nation really is interested in your ideas and opinions.

There are other topics I could get into but it would make this a very long newsletter. My intent is to inform you all of the most important issues. I did attend the VVA State Council meeting and will be glad to go over it with the members at the next meeting. I also was invited to make a presentation at the Kiwanis Club of Rutland. That event was also a success and I thank them for a very nice time and a very good dinner.

Until next newsletter time folds I'll say God bless you all, and remember, never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you!!

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

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Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

Membership Recruiting!! Please take the 3 copies of the VVA membership applications, separate them and put them in your wallet or purse. We are actively recruiting members to reach that hundred mark John spoke of. Mail the completed applications to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701.

Membership Notes

We often recognize certain groups in this column (Life Members etc.). So here is a long overdue thank you to a **Very Important Group of Members...ASSOCIATES!** Sharon Amorosi, Beth Brodne, Paul Dutton, Patty Gilbert, Beth Higgins, Ed Hooke, Francis Lynch, Jr., Patty Sheerin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Silva, Milton "Pappy" Smith, Scott Thompson, and our newest associate members Sherry Barbour, Mike Kelly and David Petty. Thanks for your support and efforts!!!

OTHER NEW MEMBERS: Anthony Mettler from Shelburne Falls, Mass. Anthony is a Life Member who was formerly At-Large. Also John Clogston of Rutland, and Bill Whitney of Chester, formerly of the Chester chapter. Welcome to you all!

Let's Hear From...

Any member that has an issue or idea that they'd like to discuss!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

The following letter is a Let's Hear From... response from Joe Donaldson of Fair Haven, VT.

To: John Bergeron & Chapter 1 Members

First I would like to thank you and apologize for the late response.

For those of you who don't know me, I live in Fair Haven with my wonderful wife. We have three children, 1 girl and 2 boys. I was in the army and served with the 4/60th Artillery Unit, 1st Field Forces, in 1970 in Vietnam.

I joined VVA about 2 years ago. I am not as active as I would like to be. I'm looking forward to changing this. Unfortunately, because VVA has changed their meeting to Thursday nights, it will be impossible, as I am committed to the POW/MIA vigil that is held in Fair Haven each Thursday night. You see, the POW/MIA issue is a very big part of my life. I feel its very important to keep the vigil going as a constant reminder to our communities and more importantly to our government.

To some it may seem that we don't make much of a difference, but the different faces that we see, the ones who take the time to stop and ask why we are there, is what makes the big difference. You see to educate the communities and the youth, so that this does not continue is extremely important.

I wonder how much of a difference it would have made if I had been active with this issue when I came home? I kick myself for sitting on my butt and doing nothing!

I say Thank You to those who started the vigil. Because I am one of the faces who stopped and said "Why are you here?" Without them, I would still be sitting on my butt.

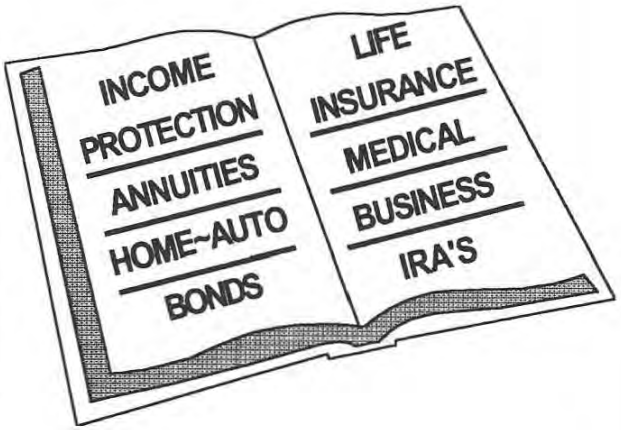
Some of the people I wish to thank are Bill Canfield, Bill & Beth Higgins, and to my brother and best friend Don Amorosi and his wife, Sharon, who continue to come to this vigil from their home in south Glens Falls, NY each Thursday night.

So please, if you can, come see us. If you can't, take a few minutes (23 at this time) and think of those who are not home yet.

If you are wondering where I am on meeting night, I'll be in the Memorial park, Downtown Fair Haven. That's where I'll be until our government gives us a full accounting for all our POWs & MIAs. Should you change your meeting night, I will try to visit you.

Together Then. Together Now.
Joe Donaldson

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

THAT WE EXIST

Invisible to others, we in our pain.
Their only goal was their every gain.
Where were they while we were slain?
Enjoying freedom and the hippies reign.
Together in Nam . . . we fought to exist.

Those lives of ease, so eagerly sought.
They valued only what was sold or bought.
Of how much we paid, they all knew naught.
Expendable were we, in their every thought.
Together in Hell . . . we tried to exist.

Since Vietnam, 'tis been many moons.
Others have married in summer's Junes.
Babies were fed with silvered spoons.
Few, if any, know of our hidden wounds.
Together in Limbo . . . we continue to exist.

Our generation soon shall all be gone.
The children shall be our living spawn.
To lead the world to a brilliant dawn.
Then lay us at the "V" in the D.C. lawn.
Together in Peace . . . we will forever exist.

~ Jungle Vet '95 ~

Copyright © 1995 by Robert W. Baird 1/1D, 1st Platoon, Team "West Orange"

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Something to Think About

Someone has said that membership in every organizations made up of four kinds of "bones". There are the "wish" bones who spend their time wishing that someone else would do the work. There are the "jaw" bones who do all the talking but very little else. Next, there are the "knuckle" bones who knock everything that anyone tries to do. Finally, there are the "back" bones who get under the load and do the work.

What kind of "bone" are you?

Thanks to Kym Hoerr for this tidbit of wisdom!

March Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 7th

VVA Chapter One will hold it's next meeting on Thursday night, March 7th at 6 pm at the Back Home Cafe on Center Street in Downtown Rutland. They are located on the second floor, but there is access to an elevator if it is needed. Should you need the elevator, please call ahead to make sure it is waiting for you - 775-9313. Back Home Cafe is an Honor the Vet Program member offering 20% off all food items.

WHEN ONE AMERICAN IS NOT WORTH THE EFFORT TO BE FOUND, WE AS AMERICANS HAVE LOST. POW/MIAS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA STILL WAIT!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

Wishing you the
Luck of the Irish on
March 17th and always!

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

March, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 3

VEEP'S CORNER

As Vice President of Chapter #1 and the Vermont State Council of VVA, I would like to touch on some of the happenings that are going on in both areas.

First the Chapter. April is the election of officers and I would like to see more interest in the positions that are open, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Board of Directors. Each office plays a significant roll in our organization not only as chapter leaders, but also as the ones who can find help for those in need.

As an officer in the past and present, it is nice to sit back at the end of the year and see the progress that has developed within the chapter, not only in accomplishments in the projects we have started, but also in the camaraderie that comes from being a member of Chapter #1. I urge everyone who can possibly make the April meeting to be there.

One thing that Chapter #1 will be voting on in March is when we would like the Moving Wall back in Rutland. I was originally thinking of getting it for the year 2000, for our 20th anniversary. But because of recent events in the Vermont Legislature, I am hoping for the week of August 10,1997. That day has been chosen as **VIETNAM VETERANS DAY** in the Republic of Vermont. The resolution is sitting on the Governor's desk right now for his signature.

A hardy Thank You to John Miner, State Council President for all his hard work in getting this resolution passed. The other members of the State Council who helped in this endeavor were Ed Jones - Chapter 753 out of St. Albans, Russell Farrar - Chapter 723 out of Chester and Jim Howley of the Northeast POW Network. There are others that are highly involved in the legislative aspect of VVA in this state and my apologies for those names omitted.

They also have been fighting for the funding of the Vermont Freedom Medal for the parents of our brother and sisters who did not make it home. That should pass the legislature before they break for the year. The ceremony will take place at Camp Johnson on September 21,1996. If anyone knows a Gold Star parent or are one yourself, please contact me at 775-5105 (home) or at work at 773-7305. We need to get the list of names to General Edwards in the next couple of months in order to get the ceremonies in place. I am urging ALL color guards from every chapter, post and detachment in the State of Vermont to attend this ceremony for our lost comrades.

We also have been working very hard on the Sharon Monument and have been granted a one year reprieve on its closing. Once again John Miner, through his efforts with the State Council Presidents in Puerto Rico last January, has been a major factor in the decision to delay the closing until further studies have been made. Poor Governor Dean is receiving quite a few letters from all over the country from our sister chapters inquiring about the memorial. I don't think he knows what hit him as he doesn't understand why people in places like Texas would be interested in a memorial in Little Ole Vermont. He doesn't understand the true meaning of Vietnam Veterans and their alliance with each other in time of need, even though we don't always see eye to eye with each other.

These have been some of the things that your state council has been working on this year and will be working on in the next legislative session in the fall. The major project for that session is my personal pet project and that is Vermont will more than likely have their own Veterans License Plates. More to come in future newsletters.

Personal Note: John Bergeron, as out going President of Chapter #1 these last couple of years, you carried this chapter farther than any other president in its history. Your dedication to the chapter and it's members has been a shining example of what one person can do when they believe in something and believe in the people who surround you at every project and gathering. ***JOB WELL DONE!!!!***

I know you will be with the new officers in body and spirit and will continue to help the chapter to grow.

Till next time.

Semper Fi
Veep Steve Faye

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Membership Notes

This month we welcome new member Len Meighy, a new Associate member. Welcome Back to Royal Barnard and Bob Bizon, past members who have renewed their memberships. Unfortunately this month we also bid farewell to Don and Sharon Amorosi, who have transferred to a New York chapter. We are sorry to see you go, Thanks to you both for all your support and help in the past!

Reminder: Dues are now Overdue!!! Please take a moment to fill out your renewal form and send it to VVA Chapter #1.

Let's Hear From...

Any member who has been named in this column in the past but who has not answered. Let us know what is on your mind!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

RENEW TODAY!

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

Has Relocated To
13 Center Street

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

VIETNAM VETERAN'S TERMINOLOGY 101

This month we are starting a new monthly feature called Vietnam Veteran's Terminology 101. Each month we will feature acronyms or slang that is unique to either Vietnam vets or the military in general. The answers will appear on a later page in the newsletter. See how many you know! If you have one you think might stump the other members, send it in!

This month's words are:

1. ASHC
2. BLADDER
3. CORK
4. (THE) DRAG
5. ELEPHANT GRASS

Joint Senate Resolution

By Senators Sears, Bartlett, Canns, Chard, Delaney, Ide, Kittell, and Krauss
J.R.S.55. Joint resolution relating to a Vietnam Veterans' Recognition Day.

Whereas, over 19,000 Vermonters are veterans of the Vietnam War, and
Whereas, the first chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America was established in 1980 in Rutland, Vermont, and
Whereas, the first Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in the United States was erected in 1982 in Sharon, Vermont as a fitting tribute to the memory of those Vermonters who lost their lives in the Vietnam War, and
Whereas, it is important to always remember those members of the American Armed Forces, from both Vermont and across the nation, who made the ultimate sacrifice when called to serve their nation in the Vietnam War, now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

That the General Assembly strongly supports the annual designation of the second Saturday in August as Vietnam Veterans' Recognition Day, and be it further
RESOLVED: That this General Assembly requests that the Agency of Transportation place a sign on Interstate 89 to indicate to the public the presence of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at the Sharon, Vermont rest area, and be it further
RESOLVED: That the Secretary of State be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor.

DETER SECURITY

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FIELD SUPERVISOR

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Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
1. **Northeast Army Navy Surplus** Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322	**10%**
2. **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair** Center St., Rut., 747-4060	**10%**
3. **Adirondack Tire Merchants** Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944	**10-20%**
4. **Pappy's Restaurant** Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489	**10% + FREE coffee/dessert**
5. **Army Navy Store** Center St., Rut., 773-8839	**10%**
6. **Ron's Sunoco** Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790	**5%**
7. **Sal's Restaurant** West St., Rut., 775-3360	**10%**
8. **Howard's Sunoco** S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911	**10%**
9. **Boss Threads** Proctor, 459-3393	**10-20%**
10. **Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys** Center St., Rut., 773-1488	**10-20%**
11. **Buxton's Sunoco** N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747	**5% off labor & parts**
12. **Bob's Hunting & Fishing** Chittenden, 773-9507	**10%**
13. **Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.** Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038	**20%**
14. **Two By Two**-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121	**10%**
15. **Boise's Electrical Service** Rutland, 747-4481	**10%**
16. **Bud's Family Restaurant** Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981	**10% before tax**
17. **Battery Street Jeans** Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	**10%**
18. **Leather Fashions, Inc.** Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099	**Discount *plus* they pay the tax!**
19. **Lemon Rentals** Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	**12% on car or van rentals**
20. **McNeil & Reedy, Inc.** Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	**10%**
21. **Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen** 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	**20% off all food items**
22. **Eastman's** 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutlan,	**10% (custom framing not included)**
23. **The Vacant Chair Restaurant** 121 West St., Rutland, 775-7708	**25%**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

VET NET Report

by Bill Barnes

This month has been an active one concerning issues directly affecting the veteran community. The "Gulf War Syndrome" has been in Vermont's headlines as well as in the national media. General Donald Edwards of the Vermont National Guards and myself testified before the Vermont Senate committee on the use of biological and chemical weapons during Operation Desert Storm.

As a direct result of that testimony a resolution (sponsored by Rep. Fred Maslack of Poultney) passed the Joint Legislature with even stronger language then was originally written. So...**WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

For those of you who missed the last meeting there is news from my nephew in Bosnia. He left Germany on Jan. 6th and was immediately sent on to Bosnia. He began escorting convoys on the 17th of that month. Conditions are just as bad as we had imagined they would be. No showers, no laundry or other ways to keep clean. Mike said he hasn't been dry since the day he arrived in the country. Mud is now a very large problem too.

As for the adopt a platoon idea from VVA National, they could sure use the help. Some of the items needed are as follows: Toilet paper, reading material of all kinds, candy and other munchies, canned fruit etc., socks are in constant shortage (at least dry ones). There is no way to use the U.S. currency so don't send any. German Marks are acceptable in Bosnia but of course there really isn't much a person can buy over there anyway. Oh yes...cigarettes are also needed.

Look folks, most of you are veterans or family of veterans. You remember what it was like "in country" and how much mail call meant to every soldier there. Along with the care packages, letters are very much needed by our troops. It doesn't matter who writes as long as they all get mail. The Platoon we have adopted is from the 1st CAV Scouts. Let's show those troopers that we're behind them and that we remember what it is to be on foreign unfriendly soil.

My nephew's address is:

Michael Kelly 008-60-0995
HHC 3-5 CAV 1st BDE Scouts
Operation Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09789

I'm reasonably sure anyone can write other members of the unit by just putting---ANY SOLDIER followed by the same address. VVA #1 will be sending a package to the unit very soon, so if you would like to contribute just see John B. at his shop at 13 Center Street or contact me at (802) 265-8755.

Both the AM and FM radio shows I do are going along very well. It's hard to cram a months worth of updates into one hour on the AM side but I do pass on a ton of info anyway. On the Eagle Radio Network I go into each issue in depth and I do receive quite a few phone calls from all over the nation. When the ground thaws and I can set the dish the network will be in the Rutland area. Hang in there...I'm anxious to get it on the air here too!

For now I've taken enough space in our newsletter. I will continue to send in an article every month with updates on all sorts of veterans issues....as the info comes in, it will go out to each and every one of the vets organizations in the Rutland County area.

Until next month brother and sisters. God bless each and every one of you.

"VET NET" Host
Bill Barnes

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

Missing Service Personnel Act Will Unify Government MIA Accounting In One Office

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 19-25 February, 1996

President Clinton 10 Feb. signed into law a measure consolidating the entire process for missing servicemembers into a single office.

The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1996 gives Defense Secretary William Perry one year to create a new Office For Missing Persons.

The measure brings together search and rescue, escape and evasion and investigative procedures under a single office responsible for standardizing all procedures for all branches of the military.

The office also will be responsible for coordinating search and rescue and accountability with all other U.S. agencies and departments.

Crafted by Rep. Bob Dornan (R-NH), the bill was put together with the advice and support of many POW/MIA activists.

"If nothing else, the Missing Service Personnel Act will be a positive legacy from those we left behind," said POW/MIA activist Pam Young.

One clause of special concern to the families of MIAs is that, under the new law, no prisoner of war or missing servicemember will be declared dead solely on the basis of passage of time.

This clause is retroactive to 1950 for persons who were last known alive or can, on the basis of their records, be suspected of surviving.

One person especially fond of the retroactivity clause is Dolores Alfond, whose brother, Capt. Victor Apodaca, was shot down over Vietnam in 1967. Although he was originally listed as a "discrepancy case," his name eventually was removed from the list due to passage of time.

Now, Alfond said, she plans to have his name reinstated. "The (new law) will give my brother and all our POW/MIAs back their voice," she said.

But Al Santoli, an aide to Dornan, said there must be reasonable evidence for reinstatement.

"There has to be some kind of tangible evidence that would merit reconsideration," said Santoli. "A gut feeling doesn't qualify."

Several other provisions of the bill were based on the experiences of family members of those still missing in Vietnam.

For example, the law provides that in every board of inquiry related to a missing servicemember, legal council for the missing person will be appointed.

"That's to ensure that the boards are conducted professionally and to ensure that all information is included in the missing person's personnel file," Santoli said.

Because of the difficulties family members have had in dealing with the intelligence community, another clause in the bill requires any agency of the U.S. government that receives information related to a missing servicemember to be turned over to the new office.

And, said Santoli, the provision has teeth.

If any member of the government willfully withholds information from the personnel file of a missing serviceperson, he or she can be fined and imprisoned for up to a year.

"In other words, no longer can a bureaucrat conveniently leave something out of a missing person's file," Santoli said.

One provision that has concerned many family members will broaden the definition of the family.

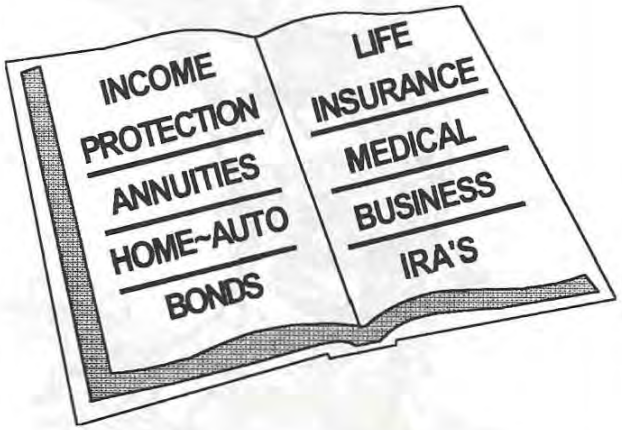
Under current regulation, only the immediate next of kin are provided access to the records of a missing servicemember.

The new law gives all members of the immediate family - parents, spouses, children over 18 and brothers and sisters - access to those records.

Servicemembers also may designate someone from outside their family to have access to the records should they go missing.

Finally, in an effort to protect family members who feel their rights to require further investigation into the fate of a loved one are being ignored by the military, the new law allows members of the immediate family to take a case into federal district court.

JON PINTELLO
INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

VVA Meeting Night Changed in Support of POW/MIA Vigils

At last month's meeting it was unanimously agreed upon to change the night of VVA #1's monthly meeting back to Saturday night.

The change to Thursday night had conflicted with long-standing POW/MIA vigils in Meredith, NH and in Fair Haven, VT.

These vigils are held each Thursday night as a constant reminder to our communities and to the government of the plight of the POW/MIAs.

Since the Fair Haven vigil is regularly attended by members of Chapter One, it was decided to show our support for the effort by removing the conflict. This allows our members to attend both events, if they so choose.

VVA #1 encourages members to attend the vigil in Fair Haven, and if you can't, take a moment on Thursday nights to think of those who still wait. And to those who stand in remembrance of them each Thursday night, we salute your dedication to this worthwhile cause!

Vermont Thunder IV A Day of Honor-May 26, 1996

Vermont Thunder IV will be held on May 26, 1996. Once again, motorcyclists and veterans will gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sharon, VT and ride the length of I-89, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway to Swanton, VT. There will be speakers, wreath layings, a Vermont State Police escort, and a buffet at the Swanton VFW.

The schedule is as follows:

1000	Arrive Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Northbound I-89 (North of exit 1)
1100	Wreath laying ceremony
1200	Leave Vietnam Veterans Memorial rest area
1330	Stop in Richmond for gas
1400	Leave Richmond
1500	Arrive in Swanton

For more information, contact: Bill Fitzpatrick 453-3766, Paul Butler 862-0658, or Mike Pendriss 893-1191.

SOLDIERS

We were that which others did not want to be.
We went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do.
We asked nothing from those who gave nothing, and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness...Should we fail.
We have seen the face of terror, felt the stinging cold of fear, and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love.
We have cried, pained, and hoped...But most of all, we have lived times others would say were best forgotten.
At least someday we will be able to say that we were proud of what we were...Soldiers.

Written by George L. Skypeck, CPT, USA
Adapted By: William T. Picknell, MSG, USA (Ret)

TERMINOLOGY ANSWERS

1. ASHC - *Assault Support Helicopter Company*
2. BLADDER - *a heavy-duty, rubberized collapsible petroleum drum ranging from 2,000 to 50,000 gallons*
3. CORK - *burnt cork was used for facial camouflage*
4. (THE) DRAG - *squad behind the main maneuver element to ensure rear safety*
5. ELEPHANT GRASS - *tall, sharp-edged grass found in the highlands of Vietnam*

ADOPT A PLATOON!

Send your letters & care packages to:
Mike Kelly 008-60-0995
HHC 3-5 CAV 1st BDE Scouts
Operation Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09789

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 sells space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space is available at the following rates:

Business Card Size - $5.00 per month
1/4 page - $10.00 per month
1/2 page - $20.00 per month
Full page - $40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either:

Beth Higgins
RD #1, Box 88A
Castleton, VT 05735
or
John Bergeron
Center St.
Rutland, VT 05701

Deadline for ads is the 10th of each month.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

MEMORIES MINGLED WITH THE TAPS

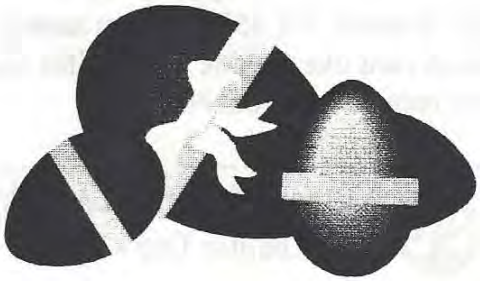
Each time I hear the Taps
I scarce can take it in-
The memories come rushing back
As I touch my gold Star Pin.
Our Sons and Husbands seemed so strong
As they marched off to the War.
But as we listen to the Taps
We know they are, no more.
Our loved ones didn't die in van
'Cause they fought to keep us free.
So let us be faithful to our Land
As we honor their Memory!

Phyllis Aubin
Gold Star Mother

April Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 6th

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland, Vt. Annual elections will be held. All offices and board of director seats are open. If you would like to run for an office, nominations will be accepted until the time of the election.
Your Chapter needs *YOU* to make it strong!
Please come and cast your vote!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward



Happy Easter!

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

April, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 4

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

April in Vermont means mud season, sugaring, tax time and longing for those warm days of Spring to arrive so that you can shed all those layers of clothes and boots that you have been wearing all winter. But, most importantly VVA #1 holds their annual meeting and elections. Before I get to the elections I would like to thank all of you who attended the meeting on April 6, 1996 at Sewards Restaurant. To my knowledge this was the largest group of people to ever attend a VVA meeting. I have to admit that I was very impressed. I hope that this is a sign of things to come.

It's obvious by now that I am your President for one more year, only because we didn't reach our goal of 100 members. So, you are stuck with me for awhile more. The other three officers all remained the same: Vice President - Steve Faye; Treasurer - Jon Pintello; Secretary - Bill Barnes. The five Board of Director members for 1996 are: Dick Doyle, Frank Bump, Bill Whitney, Bill Picknell, and Bill Higgins. Beth Higgins has graciously agreed to be the Associate Member liaison to the board. I would like to congratulate all of you on your election and look forward to working with you in the future.

We have designed a new window sticker for those merchants who participate in the program and they are being manufactured as we speak. They should be ready for our next meeting. This new design was well received by the membership and will look very impressive in the windows of all those participants. We also welcome "Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair" located at 3 Strongs Avenue in Rutland. Owners Carol and Vinnie Burd are offering a 10% discount on all merchandise.

This year's Loyalty Day Parade will be held on May 5, 1996. The parade will kickoff at 1400 hrs. VVA #1 will be meeting near the flag pole in the old K-Mart parking lot by 1300 hrs, at which time we will proceed to our place in the lineup. Should you wish to meet us there, we are marching in Section 11, which forms up on NickWackett Street. The VVA Color Guard will be marching and everyone is invited to march with us. It would be nice to have a large contingent on hand and march in force. I hope to see you all there.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 4, 1996. The meeting will be held at the Sewards Family Restaurant, North Main Street, Rutland. The Color Guard and Board of Directors will meet at 5:00 pm. The general meeting will follow at 6:00 pm. Bob Rummel, President of the Veterans Assistance Office will be our special guest. He will be presenting a slide show and discussion of the Dodge Development Center. Please try and attend the meeting and show your support.

John Bergeron
President

Membership Notes

This month we welcome new members: Retired Sergeant Major Lloyd Rahlf from Sparks Nevada. SGM Rahlf is very active in 101st ABN Div. Association; Tim Beebe of Pomfret, Vermont. Tim is Team Leader at the Vet Center in White River Junction, and was associated with Chapter 6 of Manchester, NH years ago; Thomas Skinner, new to the West Rutland area who was recruited by President John Bergeron. WELCOME!

Make A Pledge! I would like each member to pledge to talk to someone about joining VVA in the next 30 days. One Person! That's it!

Let's Get Online! If you are online, send your addresses in to the newsletter and we'll publish them so people can communicate electronically. I'll start the ball rolling: reach me at RDOYLE@mail.det.state.vt.us.

Renewals are still coming in, but several more are needed. We really want to hit 100 members and we need everyone's support. Write that check and mail it today!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One
Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President - John Bergeon - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt - No Phone
Vice Presidnet - Steve Faye - (802) 775-5105
Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

Board Members

Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work - E:Mail - RDOYLE@mail.det.state.vt.us
Frank Bump - (802) 247-6980
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640
Bill Picknell - (802) 767-9874
Bill Higgins - (802) 468-5652
Beth Higgins - (802) 468-5652

VIETNAM VETERAN'S TERMINOLOGY 101

Each month in Vietnam Veteran's Terminology 101 we will feature acronyms or slang that is unique to either Vietnam vets or the military in general.

The answers will appear on a later page in the newsletter. See how many you know! If you have one you think might stump the other members, send it in!

This month's words are:

1. FAC
2. GMG1
3. HOOTCH
4. IRREGULARS
5. JOLLY GREEN GIANT

Welcome Home Service for Vietnam Veterans and their Families

The La Salette Viet Nam Veteran Ministry will hold an Interfaith Service of Spiritual Healing for Vietnam Veterans and their Families at the La Salette Shrine in Enfield, NH on Sunday, May 5, 1996 at 3:00 pm.

The service will be celebrated by Father Phil Salois, M.S. and Debbi McCallops. Using secular and non-secular music, readings and poetry, this special service of healing and reconciliation is designed to foster the spiritual healing of the Vietnam Veteran and his/her family as they struggle to overcome the painful aftermath of the war. This service is open to all those who care about the well-being of Vietnam Veterans and their families. All are welcome to attend. For more information or directions, please call 603-632-7087,

ADOPT A PLATOON!

Send your letters & care packages to: Mike Kelly 008-60-0995
HHC 3-5 CAV 1st BDE Scouts
Operation Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09789

VEEP'S CORNER

To start off, I would like to congratulate all the incoming officers of Chapter 1 for the 1996 - 1997 year. Especially glad to see John Bergeron decide to run for another term.

This looks to be a very exciting year as our parade season is getting under way and the new Captain of our Color Guard is already getting our marching unit ready for this year's events, starting off with the Loyalty Day Parade in Rutland. Good work, Tom!

Chapter 1 donated $25.00 to MDA for their worthy cause and especially helped get my boss, Kent Maxfield, out of jail. Kent raised about $600 for MDA and Chapter 1 was proud to be part of that endeavor.

On April 20, 1996, Mrs. Frappier, a Gold Star Mother from the Chester Area presented the American flag that draped her son's coffin to the Vietnam Veterans of America Vermont State Council. What she didn't know was that the State Council had arranged to present her with the medals that were never given to her when her son was laid to rest. That has been some 28 years. They may be late, Mrs. Frappier, but know they will be treasured as was your son.

I would like to thank Ed and Mike from Chapter 753 for the great job they did in lobbying at the State Capitol for the Sharon rest area and letting the legislature know that we are a strong and proud group of men and women who believe in our convictions and aren't easily swayed by political gibberish.

On the license plate issue, the Transportation Department has decided if any group wants a vanity plate, i.e. Veteran Plate, they will have to pay an extra $20 for a 4" x 3" sticker per year, on top of the $42 we already pay per year. That money would be going into the general fund. That is totally unacceptable and once again the fight is on to try and persuade our elected officials to revise that law and put a portion to the money collected for the Veterans License Plates into a fund for the upkeep of all our Veterans Memorials throughout the state. I will keep you posted on the progress of what is going on as the time comes.

Anyone looking to purchase a Chapter #1 jacket can contact me at 775-5105 (H) or 773-7305 (W). The jackets are $65.00 and is payable up front to Keith's II. It will take four to six weeks for delivery.

The elections of officers for the state council will be held on June 15th and I encourage all chapters to submit the names of those who want to run for office or a committee to the state council as soon as they become available as it will give each chapter a chance to look over the nominations and see how they want to vote and get a chance to meet the candidates before they are elected.

The State Council meets every 3rd Saturday at the VFW on Edson Street at 11:00. All are welcome.

Here's wishing a speedy recovery to John Miner from Chapter 601 after his operation. Hope you're back on your feet soon.

And last, but not least, Congratulations Bill Higgins on finally getting your Honda to look and act like a Harley!!! Now you won't have to take the back roads to work anymore. LOL

Semper Fi
Steve

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

Has Relocated To
13 Center Street

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

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Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
1. **Northeast Army Navy Surplus** Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322	**10%**
2. **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair** 13 Center St., Rut.	**10%**
3. **Adirondack Tire Merchants** Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944	**10-20%**
4. **Army Navy Store** Center St., Rut., 773-8839	**10%**
5. **Ron's Sunoco** Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790	**5%**
6. **Sal's Restaurant** West St., Rut., 775-3360	**10%**
7. **Howard's Sunoco** S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911	**10%**
8. **Boss Threads** Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	**10-20%**
9. **Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys** Center St., Rut., 773-1488	**10-20%**
10. **Buxton's Sunoco** N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747	**5% off labor & parts**
11. **Bob's Hunting & Fishing** Chittenden, 773-9507	**10%**
12. **Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.** Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038	**20%**
13. **Two By Two**-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121	**10%**
14. **Boise's Electrical Service** Rutland, 747-4481	**10%**
15. **Bud's Family Restaurant** Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981	**10% before tax**
16. **Battery Street Jeans** Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	**10%**
17. **Leather Fashions, Inc.** Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099	**Discount *plus* they pay the tax!**
18. **Lemon Rentals** Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	**12% on car or van rentals**
19. **McNeil & Reedy, Inc.** Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	**10%**
20. **Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen** 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	**20% off all food items**
21. **Eastman's** 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutlan,	**10% (custom framing not included)**
22. **The Vacant Chair Restaurant** 121 West St., Rutland, 775-7708	**25%**
23. **Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair** 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	**10%**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

The Jim Jeffords Column

Vermont has a distinguished tradition of military service spanning over two centuries: from the Green Mountain Boys during the Revolutionary War, to the fields of Cedar Creek, Virginia during the Civil War, to the beaches of Normandy at D-Day and the deserts of Iraq during Desert Storm. I take my responsibilities as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee particularly seriously because of that tradition.

The United States has a unique responsibility to the men and women who have served our nation in the armed services. It is for that reason that I have closely followed the developments and the investigations into Persian Gulf War illnesses.

Here in Vermont, over 280 veterans are on the Persian Gulf Registry; meaning they have suffered unexplained illnesses since their service in the Persian Gulf region. The Vermont Legislature recently passed a resolution urging Congress and the President to fully fund research, medical treatment and compensation benefits for Persian Gulf veterans. This was a response, in part, to recent news reports about Vermont Gulf War veterans and their horror stories about trying to get help through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system.

I have worked vigorously to ensure that Persian Gulf veterans suffering from unexplained illnesses should be given priority treatment at VA and DOD medical facilities worldwide. I supported the Persian Gulf War Veterans' Benefits Act of 1994, which authorizes the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to provide health care for any Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from a chronic disability resulting from an undiagnosed illness that manifested following service in the Persian Gulf. That legislation also setup a toll-free number to help answer questions about Persian Gulf War Illness: that number is 1-800-749-8387. But we need to do more.

Vermont veterans and vets across the nation have a right to be frustrated by the amount of time it is taking to find answers to this situation and I commend the Vermont Legislature for taking a strong stand on this issue. However, the VA is not solely responsible for the breakdown in the system. Congress and the President should also be giving more legislative guidance.

Last month a report was issued by the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veteran's Illnesses. That report made several recommendations to the VA and the Department of Defense (DOD), including: adapting performance measures for the medical registry hotline; producing public service announcements about the hotline and creating a central database to monitor antidotes to possible chemical and biological warfare that were administered to troops before deployment.

While the results of that Commission were commended by many, including President Clinton and VA Secretary Brown, I found them lacking and troubling. Although the mission of the Commission is advisory in nature, I believe the Commission's report lacks both urgency and emphasis on quickly finding explanations to better treat and help save the health and lives of veterans suffering from these maladies.

As a veteran myself, I know these young men and women gave their best for this nation when we needed them most. It is now high time we gave them our best. I will continue to push for more information, more answers, and most importantly, more action. It is the least we can do.

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

GREEN MOUNTAIN KNIGHTS
VERMONT MILITIA - "SPIRIT OF 76"

P.O. Box 29
Poultney, VT 05764 (802) 287-2310

Working Together We Reached One Goal, But Others Remain

by Don Amorosi

The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1996 is **LAW**!! For those of you who were in any way involved, thank you from me, but most importantly for those who still wait. For those of you who weren't actively involved at some level or to the degree that you could or would have like to be, I hope this success will encourage you to actively participate in whatever arena you find most compelling. I had become very concerned that the brass ring would again be just out of reach and that failure in an election year would doom this bill forever. Passage provided me with an emotional boost difficult to express: many "little people" without money, a political machine, corporate sponsorship, or the luxury of a popular cause accomplished the seemingly impossible. I believe that success in an area as divisive as this issue should hearten all, and be prototypical in our drives in other veteran's issues as well as the continuation of our drive toward an acceptable resolution of this one. Our assets are focus, determination, and unity, and I hope this scares the hell out of the establishment! The fulcrum of our strength is the intensity of our concern for each other; we care..., we love each other. My tears, born in guilt, feelings of inadequacy, frustration, and fear, are now an expression of elation and gratitude.

The time and resources we have had to commit to our drive to realize passage of this critical piece of legislation are now available to be reassigned. Our work in the POW/MIA issue is far from complete, and I want this burned into the consciousness of all. Three goals have not changed in content or significance:

- RETURN OF ALL LIVING PRISONERS OF WAR
- Repatriation of the remains currently in enemy hands or whose locations are known
- Receipt of acceptable comprehensive statements as to the inability to accommodate one of the first two requirements.

To these we now have, at least, two further responsibilities:

-Assisting family members in utilizing the new law to address their particular needs

-Pursuing an effective educational format which will make the existence of the law apparent.

Now that we have the law, it would be criminal to have it remain unknown and/or under utilized.

Though hundreds exist, two cases characterize what family members face:

-Baron 52, an Air Force reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over Laos in 1973. It was reported that all seven crew members were killed and their remains recovered. Reports by NSA intelligence analysts indicated that all were not killed and that survivors were processed by the North Vietnamese and might have been transferred to China or the Soviet Union. Paris negotiators elected not to pursue this tack as it proved burdensome. Rep. Bob Dornan (R-Ca) has recently reported that the "remains of the seven missing crew members have not been individually identified. The only identifiable forensic evidence recovered fro the crash site is a single half tooth...".

-Army MSGT Mateo Sabog was rotated back to the States after completing his tour with a transportation company in Vietnam. After disembarking in California, he just disappeared, and never reported to his next duty station, Fort Bragg, NC. This occurred in 1970. After 30 days, Sabog was declared a deserter. This didn't seem to fit his profile, as he was a 24 year career soldier with a record of honorable service. After an unsuccessful FBI search, in 1979, the Army declared him dead effective March 26, 1970. Nevertheless his name was added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as an MIA three years ago, and last April, his family was informed that remains believed to be his had been returned by the Vietnamese. Last month Mateo Sabog (identified by finger prints) showed up in a Georgia Social Security Office seeking benefits.

These cases point out the head long flight of the U.S. Government to get rid of the POW/MIA issue, no matter how irresponsibly! Misrepresentation of facts, refusal to adequately investigate and assimilate available data, ineptitude at the CIL, and total disregard for the rights and emotions of families seem the norm.

The new law will make such procedures much more difficult to employ, and increase dramatically the protection offered the missing person and his/her family. Some important law provisions include:

- NO POW/MIA MAY BE DECLARED DEAD SOLELY DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF TIME. This is grandfathered back to 1950.

-Boards of inquiry must be called in a timely manner, with family members informed in advance of the location and time to allow their participation.

-Withholding information from a personnel file by a government official is punishable by imprisonment.

-All members of the immediate family (rather than just the immediate next of kin) or a non-family designee selected by the service person shall have access to files.

-Review board composition will be representative of the missing person's specialty and situation.

-Families will be better able to reopen cases and arrive at reclassifications of status.

-Legal representation of families will be participating rather than just observing.

If this legislation brings just one Brother or Sister home, I ask that I may be an anonymous witness to the homecoming. If it effectively reduces the pain families have had to endure for so long, I selfishly hope I will be so aware. If it saves those serving now and in our future the fate of the missing in our past, every minute we have spent will be reaped a million times over.

Thank you seems very inadequate. I will never forget nor in any way minimize the support provided in this pursuit.

Congressional Record

Proceedings and Debates of the 104th Congress, Second Session
Washington, Wednesday, March 6, 1996

House of Representatives

Congressional Record
March 6, 1996
Giving Credit for the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995
Hon. Bernard Sanders of Vermont
in the House of Representatives
Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. Sanders: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 10, in signing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, the President signed into law the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995, which had been incorporated into the authorization bill.

The passage of the provisions of the Missing Service Personnel Act is a significant milestone for veterans and for the families of our MIA's and I rise today to give credit to some of the people, including some of my fellow Vermonters, who worked hard for the passage of these provisions.

Their dedication, commitment, and persistence in the face of overwhelming odds has finally brought to fruition a matter that has been their primary concern for over 13 years.

And I am very proud that my fellow Vermonters have played such a significant role in this effort.

I cosponsored the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995 after being convinced by Patricia Sheerin, Don Amorosi, Sean McGuirl, Walt Handy, and Al Diacetis of the desperate need for this law. The act is the culmination of years of effort on the part of my fellow Vermonters - Tome Cook, Bob Jones, and Brian Lindner, the President, Vice President, and Chief of Research, respectively, of the Northeast POW/MIA Network; and Jim Howley - and the veterans organizations who have supported it, including Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disable American Veterans. Most notable were the contributions of the family members of the missing and prisoners: Tom Cook, Sharon Roraback, and Sarah Pendris.

Were it not for a special conference held in 1993 by the Northeast POW/MIA Network, we would not today have a law to protect missing service persons, to protect their families from exploitation, and to grant basic human rights to the missing as well as their families.

Under the guidance of a former POW, Lt. Col. Orson Swindle, participants in that conference were able to clarify the goals of the proposed Missing Service Personnel Act as originally authored by John Holland. Mr. Swindle pointed a new direction: That while we cannot solve all the problems of the past, we can protect missing service persons in the future, based on what we have leaned from past mistakes.

Through her courage and intuition, Vermonter Patricia Sheerin, policy analyst for the Northeast POW/MIA Network, convinced the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition to support the legislation and work for its passage.

She also formed a plan and policy uniting veterans organizations and veterans advocates with the sole purpose of correcting and updating the outdated Missing Service Persons Act of 1942.

Crucial to passage of this new law was the support of citizens who were informed about its benefits.

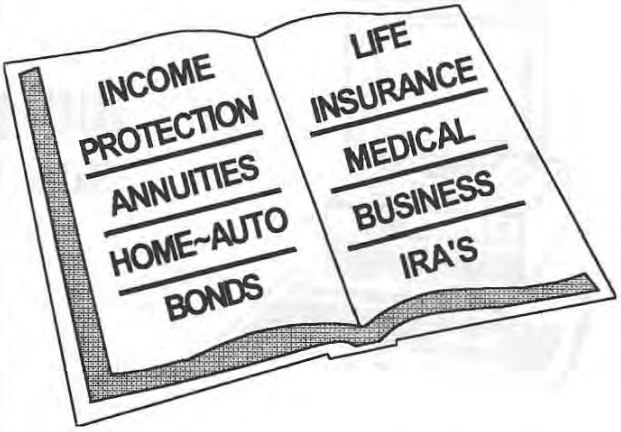
Joe and Paula Donaldson of Fair Haven, VT deserve credit for organizing a weekly vigil as part of this educational effort.

Nationwide distribution of information on the progress of the legislation, a responsibility of Bob Necci, helped pave the way to passage of this important act. Education is often the key to success, and such was the case with the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995.

I commend the supporters of this bill for their loyalty and devotion to the men and women who wear the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces. These Vietnam veterans and family members of those missing and captured in Vietnam have left a legacy of justice and fair treatment for future soldiers who become missing while fighting to defend our country and our freedom.

Editor's Note: The preceeding was submitted anonymously, and was included here because of the mention of so many past and present members of Chapter One, and that of so many other people we have all come in contact with. We can all be proud of what these and other fine folks did to help get this bill passed.

JON PINTELLO
INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

TERMINOLOGY ANSWERS

1. FAC - *(Fack) Forward Air Controller.*
2. GMG1 - *Gunner's Mate Guns Petty Officer or just GMGFirst Class, which is the same as an E-6 in any service.*
3. HOOTCH - *House or living quarters or a native hut.*
4. IRREGULARS - *Armed individuals and groups not members of the regular armed forces, police, or other internal securiyt forces.*
5. JOLLY GREEN GIANT - *Heavily armed air force C-47 aircraft supporting troops or an air force HH-53 heavy rescue helicopter.*

WARNING!

The deadline for articles for this newsletter is the tenth (10th) of the month! The reason for the early deadline is the amount of work that goes into each and every issue of this newsletter, and the time it takes to put it together.

This month, two articles were received from members extremely late. One came in on the 18th, and the other on the 19th.

In all future issues, this will not be accepted! The deadline is the 10th and no late articles will be printed without prior permission from the staff!

Loyalty Day
May 5, 1996
Parade - 2:00 pm

Dog River Business Solutions of Vermont, Inc.

P.O. Box 340 Northfield Falls, VT 05664

Bill Barnes

Sales Manager

Bus: 802-485-3350

Fax: 802-485-7194

Home: 802-265-8755

Modem: 802-485-3351

Vermont Thunder IV
A Day of Honor-May 26, 1996

Vermont Thunder IV will be held on May 26, 1996. Once again, motorcyclists and veterans will gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sharon, VT and ride the length of I-89, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway to Swanton, VT. There will be speakers, wreath layings, a Vermont State Police escort, and a buffet at the Swanton VFW.

The schedule is as follows:

1000	Arrive Vietnam Veterans Memorial Northbound I-89 (North of exit 1)
1100	Wreath laying ceremony
1200	Leave Vietnam Veterans Memorial rest area
1330	Stop in Richmond for gas
1400	Leave Richmond
1500	Arrive in Swanton

For more information, contact: Bill Fitzpatrick 453-3766, Paul Butler 862-0658, or Mike Pendriss 893-1191.

May Meeting to be held on Saturday, May 4th

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, May 4th at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland, Vt. Color Guard and Board of Directors will meet at 5 pm, General meeting at 6 pm.

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. First drawing to be held at the July Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Adopt a Platoon Update

Excerpt from letter to Bill Barnes: "Tell everyone at VVA Chapter #1 we appreciate their support, it makes us feel good about what we're doing." - Mike

HHC 3/5 CAV 1st BDE
Scouts
Operation Joint Endeavor
APO AE 09789

Areetha Brooks	Charles Osman
Jason Baggette	Jeffery Chambers
PaulMaxwell	Tracey L. Devenport
Jerome Jones	Sammy Sain
Casey Baldridge	DamonToureer
Sam Shiraishi	Sean Cataudell
Tom Dever	Cahrles Smith
Raymond Hernandez	James Bull
Mike Kelly	Neil Hoffman

Rolling Thunder IX Ride for Freedom

Rolling Thunder IX, the Ride for Freedom will be held in Washington DC on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26, 1996.

Rolling Thunder is a demonstration for our POW/MIAs that the government has abandoned. Speeches and music will be held at the Reflecting Pool.

Assembing in the North Pentagon Parking lot beginnig at 8 am, it will leave at 12 noon for the ride through Washington DC to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to pay respect to the brothers and sisters.

If you love your freedom, fight for theirs! No Attitudes! For more information, contact Artie Muller: 908-369-5439.

POW/MIAs in Southeast Asia Still Wait!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

Finally, It's Spring!

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

May, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 5

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

For the past few days I have been pondering what my contribution would be for this months newsletter. During this time we received a thank you card from Pattie Jones of Chester, VT. The reason for the card was to thank us for the donation that we made to the Travis Jones Commemorative Fund. Travis is the teenage son of Pattie - Travis is dieing of Leukemia & is presently at home taking it one day at a time.

After reading the card I referred to our mission statement which is printed in each of our newsletters: *"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."* I realize that there are other important issues such as the POW/MIA issue, Agent Orange & the Homeless, but we at VVA #1 have devoted ourselves to those in our own communities. Now that we are growing in membership & financially we are in a better position to help those in need.

In the past few months we have helped purchase a plane ticket for a vet so that he could visit his dying father in Florida. We secured a wheel chair for someone, donated money to a family that lost their home due to a fire; donated money to the Dodge Development Center & the WSYB Christmas Fund. These are some of the things that we have accomplished in the past few months. My reason for writing the above is not to pat ourselves on the back but to let those of you who are out of the loop know that VVA #1 is more than just meetings & marching in parades.

I do urge any of you who may need assistance of any form to contact someone at Chapter One. If we can't help you we certainly can connect you with someone who may.

Loyalty Day Parade

This year's parade was so large that they had to lengthen the route. Also for the first time we had excellent weather. Our color guard was well represented thanks to our Color Guard Captain Tom Reardon. We also had three young gentlemen from the Chester Chapter marching with us. Thanks guys. And then the following day we made the front page of the Rutland Herald!

As a post script to this, I was disappointed in one thing. As we were marching past the reviewing stand & did our eyes right...There was ***NO ONE*** on the reviewing stand! Where was the Mayor? After all this is your home town hosting the parade! Where were Gov. Dean & the other dignitaries? Were your butts getting a little sore from sitting so long?

This parade happens once a year, I would think that you'd have a little more class and see it through. We had to wait for over an hour after the parade started to kick-off, then another 45 minutes to get to the reviewing stand to pay our respect, then to do an eyes right and see no one there is a slap in the face!

Thanks to Bob Rummel and Clark Howland. They gave a presentation & slide show on the Dodge Development Center at our last meeting. We have new members who really are uninformed on the Dodge Development Center and the Veterans Assistance Office, so it was good background information for them and brought the rest of us up to date.

Work has begun on the 2nd phase. The inside of the large section of the building has been gutted. The foundation needs some work before they can continue with the brunt of reconstruction. Because of the grant that the project was awarded much of the work can be contracted out. We'll try to keep you posted on their progress.

Our next meeting is Saturday, June 1st at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Seward's Family Restaurant in Rutland. I hope to see you all there!

John

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One
Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President - John Bergeon - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt - No Phone
Vice Presidnet - Steve Faye - (802) 775-5105
Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

Board Members

Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work - E:Mail - RDOYLE@mail.det.state.vt.us
Frank Bump - (802) 247-6980
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640
Bill Picknell - (802) 767-9874
Bill Higgins - (802) 468-5652
Beth Higgins - (802) 468-5652

Dog River Business Solutions of Vermont, Inc.

P.O. Box 340 Northfield Falls, VT 05664

Bill Barnes

Sales Manager

Bus: 802-485-3350 Fax: 802-485-7194

Home: 802-265-8755 Modem: 802-485-3351

VIETNAM VETERAN'S TERMINOLOGY 101

Each month in Vietnam Veteran's Terminology 101 we will feature acronyms or slang that is unique to either Vietnam vets or the military in general.

The answers will appear on a later page in the newsletter. See how many you know! If you have one you think might stump the other members, send it in!

This month's words are:

1. KLICK
2. LBJ RANCH
3. MIKE FORCE
4. NEWBIE
5. OCS

Membership Notes

RENEWALS. We still have 19 members that we would really like to renew membership. I've sent a reminder letter to most. May or June is usually the month National stops sending the Veteran to those who haven't renewed so if you want to avoid that startup process please send in your dues.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

Has Relocated To
13 Center Street

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

BACK TO SCHOOL

On May 8th at 6:30 pm, Thomas Skinner & Joel Williams went back to school. But this time instead of spending their time in the principals office or sitting in the corner with their dunce hats on, they were in the front of the class teaching.

Joel & Tom were invited to speak before a group of students in Don Wickman's Community College of Vermont's History Class. Obviously the topic of discussion for the evening was the Vietnam Conflict. Mr. Wickman wanted to give his students a more up close and personal view of the war from someone who was in-country. They did a great job answering the students questions. Most of the students were born after the war had ended, so they were clueless, but by the time Joel & Tom had finished with them I'm sure they left the classroom with a better understanding. But of course how much can be said in 1 1/2 hours?

The text that was used in this class actually devoted over 20 pages to this topic, much better than the usual 2 or 3 paragraphs that you normally see.

Many thanks to Joel & Tom for taking time out to do this, but Don't Quit Your Day Jobs!!!

POW/MIA Memorial Holds Bracelets

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 20 - 26 November, 1995

POW/MIA bracelets that have been damaged, replaced or which carry the names of repatriated prisoners of war can be sent to the POW/MIA Living Memorial at Sea Tac, WA, which is functioning as a repository for them.

The memorial was dedicated 19 Sept., 1992, as a tribute to all former POWs and those still missing. Bracelets collected throughout the year are permanently deposited in the memorial on the third Saturday in September.

Flags for each branch of the armed forces, along with the American and POW/MIA flags, are displayed at the memorial on 9,000 square feet of land donated by Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in 1991.

The project was initiated by Edward J. Wahl, president and CEO of Boney -Watson Funeral Home and the cemetery, whose uncle failed to return from WWII and whose son was a Navy pilot in the Gulf War.

Bracelets should be sent to: Washington State POW/MIA Concerned Citizens Association, PO Box 4452, Federal Way, WA 98063. For more info, contact Richard Keeton at 206-854-5810.

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Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

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Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

ATTENTION: Korean, Cold War, & Vietnam Family Members & Concerned Citizens!

Senator John McCain plans to introduce an amendment to repeal a number of provisions of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1996

Excerpted from information provided by Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans, Albany NY
Originally from National Alliance of Families

We worked long and hard to get that legislation passed and signed into law. The Missing Service Personnel Act of 1996 provides retroactivity which applies to Korean, Cold War and Vietnam Era POW/MIA family members. The law allows them unprecedented legal means to gain access to files, a right previously denied. The new legislation prohibits the government from declaring a service member dead, based solely on the passage of time. The legislation also allows prosecution for those who withhold information from family members.

In other words this is the best POW/MIA legislation ever written and signed into law. With this law many family members will gain access to information and documents previously denied.

This is unacceptable to Senator John (have you hugged a communist today) McCain.

He claims great concerns for POW/MIA family members but hugs his communist interrogator in front of them? How many POW's did Col Bui Tin "interrogate," and how many of them have yet to come home?

Here, briefly, is what Sen. McCain plans to do to the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1996.

The McCain amendment strikes the provision:

- That provides a board be appointed for closed Korean, Cold War and Vietnam cases, if information is produced indicating a possible change in status.
- That provides for counsel to be appointed for the missing man.
- That provides the Sec. of Defense convene a board every 3 years for 30 years. The McCain bill requires a board only if there is information which could lead to a change in status. (McCain's reasoning - convening every 3 years would "cause families unique pain and financial hardship by requiring a review when there is no new information.")
- That covers civilian and contractor employees who are missing. (McCain states they are already covered by Department of State)

Other provisions are also effected dealing with reporting requirements and command responsibilities.

If the McCain amendment passes it will set us back years. That is exactly what John McCain wants. He is no friend of the POW/MIA issue. We don't know what drives John McCain. Why would he do everything in his power to deny them their legal rights?

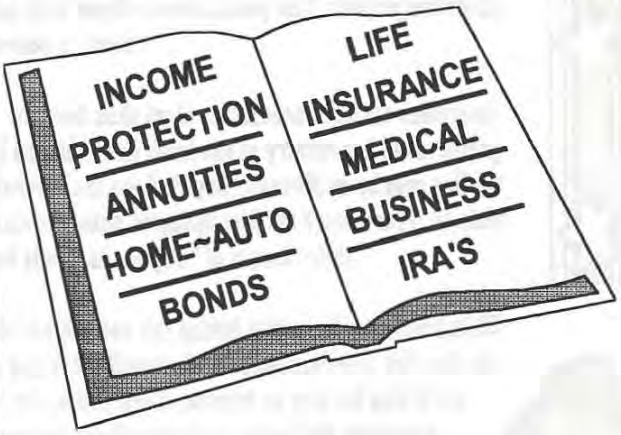
Simply put, John McCain has forgotten where he has been and he has forgotten those left behind. That in itself does not make him bad. What makes him bad is the fact that he goes out of his way to inhibit any and all progress on the POW/MIA issue. His attempt to repeal the best legal avenue opened to POW/MIA families in years makes John McCain.

We are in a battle for the survival of the POW/MIA issue. We must save the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1996, as signed into law on 10 February 1996.

Write or call your senators, let them hear from you on this very important issue.

THIS IS A BATTLE
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE!

JON PINTELLO
INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

The Banner Yet Waves

Reprinted from the September 1989 Reader's Digest. Copyright 1989 by the Reader's Digest Assn., Inc.

Children have crayoned it on paper with too few stars and too may stripes as their first notion of nationhood. Prisoners of war have secretly fashioned it from scraps and tags as the center of their hope and defiance. Mothers and widows have kept it carefully folded as a reminder of honor and sacrifice. With pomp of arms, Marines raise it over embassies and consulates from Argentina to Zimbabwe. With no ceremony at all, janitors raise it over elementary schools and town halls from Maine to Oregon. Blurred like a hummingbird wing, it flies from the aerial of a speeding pickup truck in western Texas. Still as a painting, it hangs in the humid night air as the national anthem echoes over 40,000 fans at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium.

It is sewn on the uniform of the policeman in an Ohio town. It is printed on the T-shirt of a young woman roller-skating by a California beach.

It flutters beside a tombstone in a rural Pennsylvania graveyard because someone remembered. It hangs soaked in the rain on a Wisconsin porch because someone forgot.

Tacked to a broken two-by-four in a tornado-devastated Iowa trailer park, it says with feisty hope, "We're still here."

It stands by pulpits...and hangs over bars.

It has been used, and abused, to tout waterbeds and soft ice cream, drugstores and amusement parks. It has been worn threadbare by the rhetoric of politicians, but somehow the American flag, "Old Glory," has never become a cliche.

Ask the man on the street what's in the Constitution and you'll probably get embarrassing brevity, or silence. But Americans have an intuition about that document, and the focus of that intuition is the flag. It triggers within them the deepest feelings about a place where breadlines, prison camps and tanks in the square are not the general order of things. The flag signals to them a phenomenon of history that protects them from indignities, permits them peace, draws refuges with priceless hope, offers help with boundless heart, and earnestly seeks to correct its own problems.

Americans are often nonchalant about their freedom. But yes, the postmistress in the little village may offer up a prayer about her country as she hauls down the flag in the evening. And yes, aging veterans do shed a tear when the flag goes by on Memorial Day. And yes, the baseball fan anxious for the game to start gets a lump in his throat when he turns toward the Star-Spangled Banner to sine, "Oh, say, can you see..." Cynics will never understand why their charges of "flag waving" only bewilder, amuse or insult the average citizen.

While Americans know that behind this rectangle of cloth there is blood and great sacrifice, there is also behind it an idea that redefined once and forever the meaning of hope and freedom. Lawyers and justices may debate the act of flag burning as freedom of expression. But a larger point is inarguable; when someone dishonors or desecrates the banner, it deeply offends, because the flag says all that needs to be said about things worth preserving, loving, defending, dying for.

- Reader's Digest Editors -

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

TERMINOLOGY ANSWERS

1. KLICK - *Short for kilometer.*
2. LBJ RANCH - *(L-B-J) The Long Binh Stockade. The last word was changed to make a pun on the initials of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.*
3. MIKE FORCE - *MSF. Special Forces Mobile Strike Force; composed of indigenous personnel and used as a reaction or reinforcing unit.*
4. NEWBIE - *Any person with less time in Vietnam than the speaker.*
5. OCS - *Officer's Candidate School.*

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. First drawing to be held at the July Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.: _____

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

CHINA BEACH 1996

LZ-3

August 3rd 1996 1000 hours - 2000 hours
Altamont Fair Grounds Picnic Grove

Choppers	Hambugers
APC & HUMVEE	Hot Dogs
Military Equip. Display	Chicken
DARE Car	Pig Roast
Pony Rides	Salads
Kids Events	Soda
Clowns	Beer
Bands	Raffles
Era Music	Prizes
Cotton Candy	Vets Info Booth
Popcorn	A Great Time!

Tickets for China Beach III Fund-Raiser 1996 are: Children 5 & under - free; Children 6-12 - $5.00; Adults - $15.00; Couples - $25.00. If interested in tickets, contact the chapter, we'll get you the address!

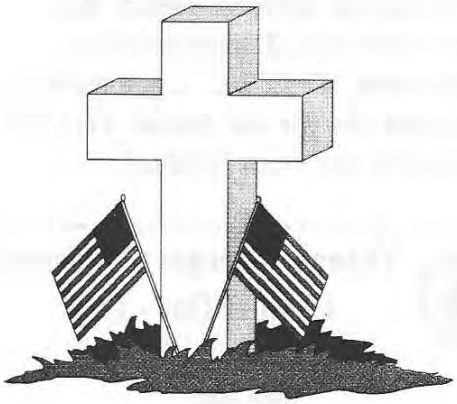
June Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 1st

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, June 1st at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland, Vt.

Flag Day June 14th, 1996

See page 6 for Special Flag Day Salute

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

June, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 6

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

Who was the genius that made the decision to celebrate all the holidays on Monday? Of course Christmas and the 4th of July are excluded.

What do you suppose his/her impetus was for coming up with such a lame brain scheme? Obviously, this person would gain financially by this maneuver. They must own a restaurant or hotel chain, because by having a three day weekend, people can travel & spend more hours shopping. I'm sure this person didn't do it so they could spend more quality time with their in-laws.

Case-in-point: We recently observed Memorial Day. Now, can anyone tell me which day was the real Memorial Day? Some communities held parades on Saturday, some on Sunday, and others on Monday. But of course we all know that Thursday was the true day. I know this because I spent a few hours out in the cold, windy wet weather, I was attending the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Veterans Cemetery in Randolph. Besides, the guest speaker said it was.

The state office workers had to work on Monday when there was no one around, but they did have Thursday off.

The state's second largest city was devoid of any Memorial service on either the designated day or the real day. Oh! I take that back. An elderly couple held their own service at the memorial at Depot Park. They had a pail of cut flowers which they laid at the Memorial & they played patriotic music on their 'boom box'.

I went and joined them for a few minutes. While conversing with Mr. Brown I discovered that he lost a brother in Korea & a brother from WWII is MIA.

I must admit that I am somewhat embarrassed for the city. The least they could do is lay a wreath at the monument. Maybe next year VVA #1 can take the lead.

I guess the bottom line really isn't about which day you choose, but that you can memorialize all those who gave of themselves, anytime.

But - If I ever am fortunate enough to meet this person I will give them a proctology exam with a punji stick!

I would like to thank Frank Bump Jr. for his efforts organizing the display at the Green Mountain Bank on West Street in Rutland. The display will be at the bank for the remainder of the month of June and can be viewed during normal business hours.

I would also like to thank Mary & Albert Tromblay for their photos of the early days of VVA #1.

Our Color Guard was busy over Memorial Day. On Sunday May 26th we attended the Vermont Rolling Thunder ceremonies at the Sharon Memorial. We had great weather & it was well attended by many bikers and non-bikers. Paul Butler, Tom Cook & Jim Howley were the speakers and Colin Carter read some of his poems.

On the real Memorial Day Steve Faye & I travelled to Randolph to take part in the ceremonies at the Veterans Cemetery. Even though the weather was cold, windy & wet there was a good turnout.

On June 8th our Color Guard was in Chester for the Alumni Day Parade. Tom is really whipping our boys into shape. Who knows, one of these days we might all be in step! Good work guys!!

Nuke Nike

It seems as if Nike is going to move some of their production to Vietnam where they can exploit their cheaper labor force. It seems as if they are having problems with their workers in other countries; something about wanting more than 30 cents a day. How ungrateful of them. The C.E.O. of Nike is worth over 4 Billion. Michael Jordon makes 20 million a year advertising for them. -So what's the problem here?

Seriously Folks: It's time to "Nuke Nike". Here is something you can do personally that may make a difference. Boycott purchasing their products and encourage others to do the same.

Wouldn't it be ironic of one of our POWs was forced to work in one of the Nike plants?

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

John

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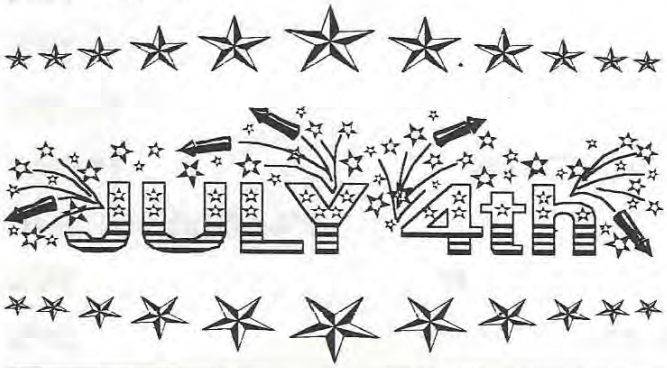
1. P-38
2. QC
3. ROUND EYE
4. SNEAKY PETES
5. TAILBOOM



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formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

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APC & HUMVEE	Hot Dogs
Military Equip. Display	Chicken
DARE Car	Pig Roast
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Kids Events	Soda
Clowns	Beer
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Membership Notes

Another round of renewal letters has been mailed by National. If you haven't sent in your dues, please take a moment to do so.

Welcome to new member Jim Godwin, who is a recent transfer. Jim was in the Navy where he served on the USS Cogswell & the USS Braine.

We have several members in the process of achieving life memberships. Congratulations to Kym Hoerr on her recent elevation to Life Member status. Kym has the distinction of being VVA #1's first Woman Life Member! Way to go, Kym!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

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24. **A & J Auto Parts**, 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	**10% (except on sale items)**
25. **Classic Stitching**, Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	**10%**

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From
Vietnam to Vermont
3000 Years Home

I'm Cliff Adams. I left Vietnam in July 1969. I got on the plane and thought I'd be home in 24 hours. To date, it's taken over 25 years. How has travelling 3000 years back in time to Homer's "ODYSSEY" helped me find my way? Why is coming home often just as dangerous as being at war? How has "PTSD" hindered my journey? The phrase Post Traumatic Stress Disorder hadn't even been invented yet. You, too, may gain insights from my story.

Join me, along with John Ball from Addison, in a performance of:

"ODYSSEUS AND VIETNAM
ME & ODYSSEUS."

Bill Newkirk, from the Burlington VET CENTER, will also be on hand after the performance to answer questions.

The performance is at the American Legion,

Post #14, in Vergennes, Vermont.

Thursday July 18, 1996
at 7:00 PM.

It is free and open to the public. For more information call:

One Woman's Story

Soon after moving to the Rutland area, I learned there was a Chapter of VVA in Rutland; upon investigating I was told I qualified as a Vietnam Era veteran and was eligible for membership in Chapter 1. That happened over 10 years ago. This year I received my 10 year pin from the President of the State Council. I also decided it was time to become a Life Member and did so. I am told this is all a first for Chapter 1 - I am the first woman veteran who has belonged to this Chapter for over ten years an now am the first woman veteran to become a Life Member. Because of these events I was asked to put together a bio on myself.

I enlisted in the Women's Army Corps on 31 August 1950 as a recruit I was lower than the low - $75.00 a month pay. My basic training was at Fort Lee, Virginia and I was in the last class of 13 weeks of basic. Since they had 13 weeks we got it all - bivouac for two weeks, rain or shine or snow in tents with all the modern facilities. We froze if our coal stove gave out, went through the infiltration course with full field pack, crawling on our bellies in the muck and mud under the barbed wire with some GI firing over our heads, night marches when it was so black out you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. Map reading when we were taken by truck to some spot out in the unknown and told to find our way back to the bivouac area. We learned to fire the carbine, rifle, 45mm pistol, as well as taking them apart and cleaning them and putting them back together within a certain time. Those were the mandatory things and if we wanted to we could fire the 50mm water cooled machine gun and throw grenades. (Of course I had to experience it all!)

Upon completion of basic training I was sent to leadership course and again I was among the fortunate ones in that we were the last class of 8 weeks of training. After leadership I was assigned back to my basic company as Cadre and from there to Germany. I spent 3 years and upon completion of my hitch I was discharged, returned to my home in Illinois and enrolled in college. With my GI bill money, $175.00 per month for 4 years I graduated with a BA degree and got a job teaching at a high school in southern California. After teaching only a year and a half I decided this was just to quiet and restrictive and I wanted to go places, meet new people and see all the sights and countries I could and I made the conscious decision that I would best be served by going back into the army. So I applied for and was given a direct commission of 1st Lt. and sent to Ft. McClellan, Alabama for my 6 months of Officer Training. As an officer I was expected to go wherever they sent me, and do whatever job they gave me - so I was a recruiting officer in Richmond, VA, a Commanding Officer in Munich, Germany; a Dependent Schools Officer, Community Services Officer in Augsburg, Germany; back to the states after 4 years in Europe to attend the Advanced Officers Course at Fort McClellan, AL, then out to Oakland Army Depot, Oakland, CA where I again was assigned as a Company Commander, the Adjutant at the depot. It was the height of the Vietnam action and our days were very busy. I worked at being the Co. of the Unit for 8 hours and then reported to the HQS building to serve as an administrative for another 8 hours. We all worked double shifts throughout this time. We also had to assist the MP's at this time as the Berkley students felt it was their duty to protest and disrupt our duties. We stood guard over female students who climbed over the fences and I am here to tell you that in my opinion what most of these women needed was a bath. They were stinking dirty. This was one of the most disgusting duties I and my women were ever called on the perform. One of my duties as Adjutant was to sign orders - orders sending service members to 'Nam and sending the escort personnel to take the deceased to their final resting place. My having to do this made the conflict very personal to me even tho I never went to 'Nam.

Following my Oakland assignment I was reassigned to Fort Bragg, NC as the Company Commander, my last and largest company. I commanded for 18 months and was reassigned to the G1 where I spent another 18 months and then sent off to Fort Monmouth, NJ to ADPS Plans and Operations Officer school. Following school completion I was assigned to Fort Bliss, TX. As the Data Reduction Section Chief at the US Army Air Defense Board. This was a small unit comprised of troops who tested the new weapons for the Army. A couple of the weapons were the Chapparal and the Vulcan. I can honestly say this was one of the most interesting jobs I had in all my years of service. My section would receive the data, both film and radar, reduce this to machine readable material for the 386 IBM computer and the result were then turned over to the mathematicians to determine if the weapons were functioning as they were supposed to and if not what measure should be taken to rectify the problems. As part of the crew we were allowed to witness the different shoots some of the time and of curse felt real proud to be a part of the team to get these weapons up the par for our fighting men.

After only 18 months on the job I was sent to the WAC TRNG Center, Fort McClellan, AL to become the Chief of Receiving and Processing. This was the processing section for all the incoming WAC personnel. Here too my job was short lived as I was reassigned to the WAC Clerical training School. And then to the S1.

My last assignment on active duty was back in El Paso with the Air Defense Board, back in my old job. It was a nice way to finish my active duty time, working with a very wonderful crew.

After the action in Nam slowed down the Government decided they had about 30,000 too many officers on duty and so they had a reduction in forces and I reverted back to reserve - not on active duty. I was able to secure a position in the Mobilization Designee Program with the Emergency Management Office for the state of Vermont. I set up the program to recruit and train reserve officers in the program so we could continue to serve, earn points toward our retirement and continue to be competitive for promotions. I had completed almost 16 years of active duty when I got riffed so this meant that I would now have to remain in the reserve to be able to retire somewhere down the line. When I was promoted to Full Colonel, the Army Reserve Center in St. Louis, MO called me to request me to sit on the promotion boards of the reserve officers. For my final 5 years of service this was my primary duty. This was a real eye opener - I discovered that for the most part all officers were very poor writers when evaluating a person for consideration for promotion. I always thought I did very well only to discover this was not true and I too fell in the category of not so hot and rather nebulous.

I retired from Fort Devens, MA where I got to troop the lines for the last time. This was 1989 and I had completed 32 years of service and gone from the grade of Recruit E-1 to Colonel 06, from a Clerk to a Commander, so I feel I can truly say I did it all!

Editor's Note: Thank you, Kym, for sharing your story with us. Stories like yours are never known if never told, & we are fortunate that you have shared yours with us. You have been & continue to be an asset to Chapter #1 & a friend to many of it's members. Of all the places you traveled and all the people you met, we are lucky that you chose Vermont and Chapter #1. You are truly an inspiration.

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 5-6 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

TERMINOLOGY ANSWERS

1. P-38 - *Can opener for canned C-rations. (How many of you still use yours?)*
2. QC - *Qua n Ca~nh; Vietnamese equivalent of an American MP.*
3. ROUNDEYE - *Slang term used by American soldiers to describe another American or an individual of European descent.*
4. SNEAKY PETES - *U.S. Army Special Forces of Rangers.*
5. TAILBOOM - *The back 1/3 of a Huey.*

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. First drawing to be held at the July Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.: _____

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES

P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

July Meeting to be held on Saturday, July 6th

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, July 6th at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland, Vt.

Color Guard Report

Chapter One Color Guard has had a good turn out for several past events, including the Loyalty Day Parade, Vermont Thunder, Memorial Day, and Chester Alumni Day.

Upcoming events are the Fourth of July Parade in Brandon on July 6th. Form up for this will be at 12:oo pm. Also in July, on the 27th our guys will be in Cambridge, NY. Form up for this is at 9:30 am. For more information on the Color Guard events or on how to join, call Color Guard Chairman Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

July, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 7

It's cookout time!

AND EVERYONE IS INVITED!

You are all invited to a picnic on Saturday August 3, 1996. Oh! Gee! That is the same night we have our monthly meeting. I guess there is no harm in mixing a little business with pleasure. The picnic will start around 3:00 pm, and the meeting will be held at 5:00 pm, not 6:00. Members and their family and friends are all welcome to attend. There will be games and plenty of food. All we ask you to bring is your own beverage of choice. Also a RSVP would be appreciated so that Chef Jon will know how much chow to make. Please do so by calling Jon or Peg at 800-286-8407 or 802-265-8602. Directions to Jon's estate in the country are printed on page 3 of the newsletter.

Hope to see you all there.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One
Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President - John Bergeon - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt - No Phone
Vice Presidnet - Steve Faye - (802) 775-5105
Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

Board Members

Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work - E:Mail - RDOYLE@mail.det.state.vt.us
Frank Bump - (802) 247-6980
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640
Bill Picknell - (802) 767-9874
Bill Higgins - (802) 468-5652
Beth Higgins - (802) 468-5652

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

Has Relocated To
13 Center Street

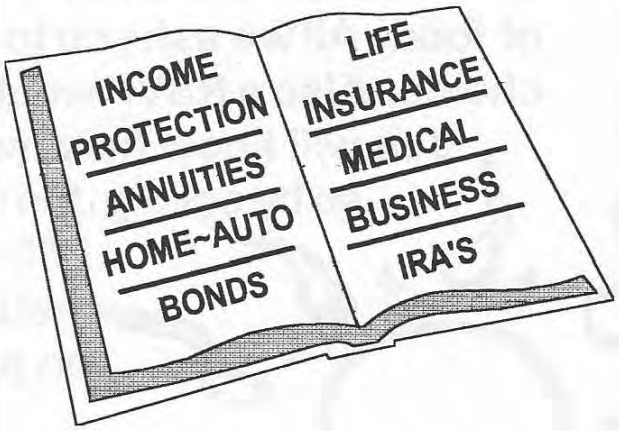
Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

Membership Notes

The good News: Membership is at 78 as of 7-3-96. New members are: 1) Cliff Adams; Cliff was in USMC and owns TOGOs Restaurant in Vergennes, which will also be joining the Honor the Vet program, so stop by for some good food and say Hi to Cliff. 2) Frances Silva, Gold Star mother of LT Joseph Silva who was KIA 9/26/70. 3) Jim Lay, Life member transfer from Michigan. I'm proud to say Jim was in D/1/506th 101st ABN, my company.

The bad news: National has dropped 14 members for nonpayment of dues.

We have sent Chaper 1 3" embroidered patches to all paid up members, let us know what you think of them.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

VIETNAM VETERAN'S TERMINOLOGY 101

Each month in Vietnam Veteran's Terminology 101 we will feature acronyms or slang that is unique to either Vietnam vets or the military in general.

The answers will appear on a later page in the newsletter. See how many you know! If you have one you think might stump the other members, send it in!

This month's words are:

1. USO
2. VHPA
3. WHITE MICE
4. XM-203
5. YARDS

Map to Chapter One Picnic/Meeting at Jon & Peg Pintello's in Bomoseen, VT

Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
1. **Northeast Army Navy Surplus**, Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322	**10%**
2. **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**, 13 Center St., Rut.	**10%**
3. **Adirondack Tire Merchants**, Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944	**10-20%**
4. **Army Navy Store**, Center St., Rut., 773-8839	**10%**
5. **Ron's Sunoco**, Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790	**5%**
6. **Sal's Restaurant**, West St., Rut., 775-3360	**10%**
7. **Howard's Sunoco**, S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911	**10%**
8. **Boss Threads**, Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	**10-20%**
9. **Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys**, Center St., Rut., 773-1488	**10-20%**
10. **Buxton's Sunoco**, N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747	**5% off labor & parts**
11. **Bob's Hunting & Fishing**, Chittenden, 773-9507	**10%**
12. **Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.**, Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038	**20%**
13. **Two By Two**-Handmade wooden jewelry, Pittsford, 483-6121	**10%**
14. **Boise's Electrical Service**, Rutland, 747-4481	**10%**
15. **Bud's Family Restaurant**, Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981	**10% before tax**
16. **Battery Street Jeans**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	**10%**
17. **Leather Fashions, Inc.**, Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099	**Discount *plus* they pay the tax!**
18. **Lemon Rentals**, Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	**12% on car or van rentals**
19. **McNeil & Reedy, Inc.**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	**10%**
20. **Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen**, 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	**20% off all food items**
21. **Eastman's**, 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutlan,	**10% (custom framing not included)**
22. **The Vacant Chair Restaurant**, 121 West St., Rutland, 775-7708	**25%**
23. **Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair**, 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	**10%**
24. **A & J Auto Parts**, 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	**10% (except on sale items)**
25. **Classic Stitching**, Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	**10%**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Firebase Indy VIII & Reunion

I was lucky enough to attend FB Indy as a part of a reunion of my company from Vietnam, Co D, 1st BN, 506th INF, 101st ABN DIV. 11 members plus myself met on June 14, 15 & 16. A good time, a somber time, a connecting time.

FB Indy is sponsored by VVA Chapter 295 and their State Council. Many events, Moving Wall, celebrities, ceremonies, camaraderie among vets & families etc. I threatened to bring a contingent from Vermont next year.

Dick Doyle

Chapter 753 *Challenges* Chapter One!

Most of you are now aware that Chapter 1 has been challenged by Chapter 753 in St. Albans. They are tired of Chapter 1 being the largest chapter in Vermont and they have vowed to "blow right by Chapter 1" by the end of the year. I assured Ed Jones of 753 that our membership would not let that happen. Each member has received a membership application. Please make a serious effort to recruit 1 person (veteran or associate). If you need more please drop me a line and you'll get them. I will report our progress and theirs in the coming months.

Dick Doyle
Membership Chair.

Monument Movement

Alas' we now have a bonafide Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee in place. The committee head is none other than Andy Moschetto. Andy can be contacted at 483-2530 evenings or 773-9772 days.

We have been meeting at the Carving Studio these past few Tuesday nights. We have been assigned a resident sculptor by the name of Steve Humphries. He will guide us through this long tedious journey. Well I'm afraid that Steve's job was short lived because we have decided not to do anything with the marble other than polish it. Apparently we were so focused on the marble that we didn't see the bigger picture, And that is to have more than just your conventional monument but have a place that you may go to sit and reflect or meditate. Some place that is somewhat private and inviting. We now have a sketch of just such a place.

We are currently putting together a proposal to present to the city. We are also doing the following:

- Making a replica of our memorial
- Getting prices on various items that will be needed
- Putting together a steering committee
- Investigating grants and foundations

We are going to need lots of help, for example we will need a grant writer, landscaper, gardener, fund-raiser, public speaker. If you would like to take part in this monumental project, please contact Andy or the Chapter.

The Faces In My Dreams

After thirty years I still see faces in my dreams,
some who never grew to be old men.
Most went off to war with honor and pride,
hoping their future they would win.

The images float by like specters,
I see some laughing while others cry,
Each one from a different background,
none thought they might be mangled or die.

I had hoped to put them all to rest,
I had hoped that time would make them fade.
But as the years slip by the more I remember,
the more of my dreams they do invade.

Copyright April 1996 I.S. Parrish

recognition day

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 5-6 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

TERMINOLOGY ANSWERS

1. USO - *United Service Organizations.*
2. VHPA - *Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.*
3. WHITE MICE - *South Vietnamese Police. The nickname came from their uniform white helmets and gloves.*
4. XM-203 - *Fired the 40mm shells, fit on the M-16.*
5. YARDS - *Montagnard soldiers.*

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. Next drawing to be held at the October Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____
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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

CHINA BEACH 1996
LZ-3

August 3rd 1996 1000 hours - 2000 hours
Altamont Fair Grounds Picnic Grove

Choppers	Hambugers
APC & HUMVEE	Hot Dogs
Military Equip. Display	Chicken
DARE Car	Pig Roast
Pony Rides	Salads
Kids Events	Soda
Clowns	Beer
Bands	Raffles
Era Music	Prizes
Cotton Candy	Vets Info Booth
Popcorn	A Great Time!

Tickets for China Beach III Fund-Raiser 1996 are: Children 5 & under - free; Children 6-12 - $5.00; Adults - $15.00; Couples - $25.00. If interested in tickets, contact the chapter, we'll get you the address!

August Meeting/Picnic

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, August 3rd at 5 pm at Jon Pintello's Country Estate in Bomoseen, VT.
Picnic Festivities to begin at 3 pm.
Details on page 1, map on page 3.

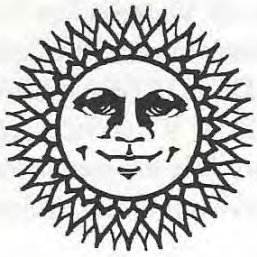
DETER SECURITY

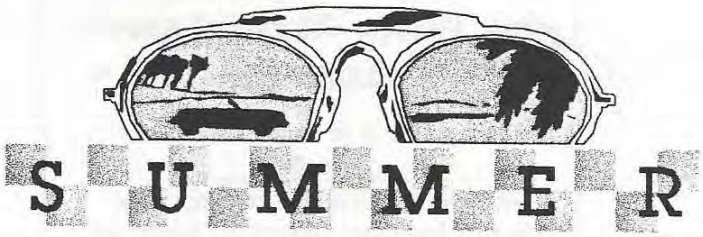
GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward





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Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

August, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 8

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

Before I begin my monthly "Rant and Rave" I would like to start off by congratulating Chapter 601, the Vermont State Council and all those volunteers who organized a class event; the first Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day, which was held on August 10, 1996 in Bennington, VT. For those of you who are not aware, the second Saturday of each August has been decreed by the Vermont Legislature and signed into law as Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day. We were blessed with great weather and the turn out was excellent. There were arts and crafts, memorabilia, speakers, music provided by the Black Rose Band, dancing, food. VVA #1 was well represented. We had a bamboo cage, the replica of the Sharon Monument. Mark Truhan organized a great display of items he "obtained" while in Nam. We also sold products, which by the way, we made $300 dollars. We also were offering 1/2 price memberships. There are now 11 new members who paid their membership on that day and 5 who, hopefully will be mailing theirs in the near future. We met some new faces and many of the familiar. All in all it went well. The only real "screw-up" occurred during the opening ceremonies. It happened while the color guards were presenting colors. Basically it boils down to this right and left thing. I "Just Don't Get It". I hope someone captured it on tape because it certainly will provide fodder for future jokes.

Next year on Saturday, August 9, 1997 VVA #1 will be hosting the event. We now will be able to learn by this years successes and mistakes so that with every ensuing year that the event is held we are able to improve. But in order to accomplish this feat we are going to need responsible and dedicated volunteers. If you fit that mold please contact us at the following address: VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Yes! We have already begun planning.

I'd like to introduce to the membership our new chaplain, Bob Posch of West Rutland. Best of luck, Bob, in your new position!

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 7th at Sewards Family Restaurant on No. Main Street in Rutland. The meeting starts at 6 pm. I'm looking forward to meeting some of our newest members.

John

Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee Report

On September 4, 1996 we will be meeting with the head of the Parks and Recreations Department. The results of this meeting will determine where the memorial will be located.

We are meeting on a weekly basis with various groups and individuals. We are hoping to obtain estimates of costs related to the memorial. Up to this point we have met with the Sculpting Studio, Glen Campbell, Pratico Landscaping, Morse Blocks and N.B.F. Architects. All of those we have spoken to have taken a great interest in this project and have agreed to donate some or all of their services. I also might add that we did not solicit them to donate their services, they came forward and volunteered. We also have all three Vermont Congress people researching grant money availability. We still need ideas and input.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

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Downtown Has Sole

formerly

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Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

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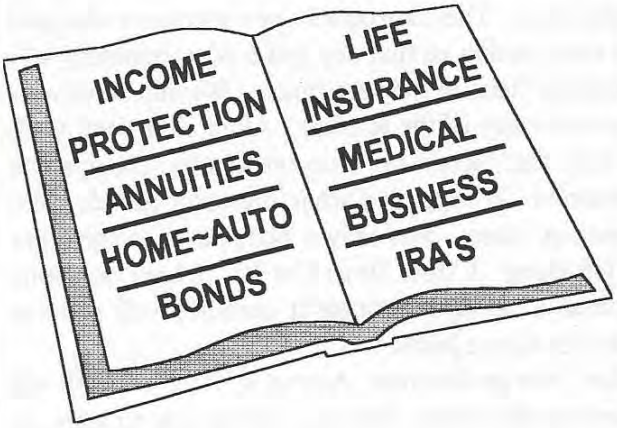
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

JON PINTELLO
INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

Color Guard Report

by John Bergeron

The "New and Improved" Color Guard was unveiled on July 27, 1996 in Cambridge, NY. Thanks to the efforts of our Capt. Tom Reardon some long overdue changes have been made. For one: there was a 100% agreement to discard the yellow berets and ascots. In their place we now have as headgear the Marine utility hat and a cammy t-shirt. One of the main objectives was to get everyone to look the same and we are 90% there. We have purchased new jungle boots for everyone. We now have all new flag poles and carriers. Since the changes we have gotten many compliments. Tom has done wonders with our appearance, but now we need to work on this difference between our right and left.

We have had a busy summer attending parades and other events. On July 27th we traveled to Cambridge, NY. The main event was the dedication of a Korean and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There was a large contingent of Vietnam Vets from VT and NY. Following the parade and dedication we were all invited to a barbecue at the local American Legion. There were mounds of food and drink and socializing. The eight of us that took part in the festivities went away with full stomachs and fond memories.

The most recent event that we participated in was the first ever Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day. Once again we had a good turnout. VVA #1 was represented by eight members who, as stated earlier had some difficulties during the posting of the colors. Tom assures me that we will be doing some drilling in the near future.

Also I would like to welcome our two newest members to the Color Guard, Larry Longtin and Carol Reardon. (Yes, she is related to our Color Guard Captain!)

Medals to Honor Vietnam War Dead

COLCHESTER - The next of kin of more than 100 Vermonters who were killed in the Vietnam War will be honored in a special ceremony at Camp Johnson in Colchester next month.

Major Gen. Donald Edwards, adjutant general of Vermont, said the surviving next of kin would be awarded the Vermont Patriot's Medal at this year's observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 21 at 1 pm.

The medal was authorized by the Vermont General Assembly during a special session in 1966, but through an oversight, the medal and scroll recognizing the sacrifice, was never funded.

That oversight was brought to the attention of the Legislature last year by the Vermont State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, and funding for the medal was authorized.

Edwards said the medal was the first decoration in the nation for next of kin of those killed in battle.

He said more than 100 Vermont families were eligible to receive the decoration, and urged those relatives of Vermonters killed during the Vietnam War to contact the Vermont National Guard toll-free at 1-800-637-3000, ext. 120.

WSYB

VET NET

1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 5-6 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

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Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

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2. **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**, 13 Center St., Rut.	**10%**
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14. **Boise's Electrical Service**, Rutland, 747-4481	**10%**
15. **Bud's Family Restaurant**, Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981	**10% before tax**
16. **Battery Street Jeans**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	**10%**
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25. **Classic Stitching**, Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	**10%**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Membership Notes

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Chapter One has many new members to welcome this month; E. Guy Paradee from Rutland, was an MP in the army; Carol Reardon form Whitehall, NY is the wife of our color guard honcho Tom Reardon; Kevin Bassett is a new associate member recruited by Steve Faye; Peg Palis of Bradford is an associate member transfer from Bennington; Also: Lisa Roggenkamp, associate member from Ontario; Tim McCarthy of Mayfield, NY; Walter White of Wilmington; George Pruett of Rutland; Katie Best of Bennington; Richard Earley of Boston, MA; Carl Stout, VVA National, Washington, DC; John Wagner of Rutland; Faith Bollhardt of Bennington; Michael Borden of No. Bennington; Julia Sondermann of Bennington; Scott Anderson of Wallingford; Luke Miller of Milford, CT; Steve Walbridge of Rutland; Larry Longtin of Fair Haven; Philip Burns of Fair Haven; John Columbo of Riverside, CA; Dave Thornton, Cambridge, NY; Paul Virtue of Cambridge, NY and John Lancoul of Hartford, NY.

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE REPORT - As of 7-8-96 (using printouts from National as official totals) Chapter 1 has 76 members...Chapter 753 has 68 members. To put this into perspective, on 4-15-96 Chapter 1 had 83 members...Chapter 753 had 59 members.

LET'S GET TO WORK!

Editor's Note: The totals listed here do not include all of these new members signed up in the last month!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. Next drawing to be held at the October Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 sells space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space is available at the following rates:

Business Card Size - $5.00 per month
1/4 page - $10.00 per month
1/2 page - $20.00 per month
Full page - $40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or VVA #1 PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for ads is the 10th of each month.

September Meeting

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, September 7th at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland! Hope to see you all there!

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to: John Bergeron, Center St., Rutland, VT 05701 or Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

September, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 9

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

Correction!

In last months newsletter in the "Welcome New Members" section we inadvertently placed the following names to the new members list who are not members: Richard Earley; Carl Stout; Philip Burns; John Columbo; Dave Thoton; Paul Virtue; and John Lancour. We apologize for the misprint.

Better Late Than Never!

Our first annual VVA #1 picnic was held on August 3, 1996 at Jon and Peg Pintello's home in Blissville. We had a good turnout and had tons of great food; baked beans with maple syrup, corn on the cob, marinated shishkabobs, hamburgers & hot dogs, salads. For those of you who were not there, you really lost out. We will be doing this again next year. We also signed up a few new members. I would like to thank Peg and Jon for the use of their lovely home.

I would like to congratulate Joe Yandell on his new job. Joe is the in-house coffee roaster at the Coffee Exchange. I was watching Joe and his instructor roasting the other day and I must say it's very involved work.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, October 5, 1996 at Sewards Family Restaurant. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. As of this printing we are trying to organize a candidates forum for 7:00 pm. It isn't a done deal as of now but we are still working on it.

John

Grief never ends, but it changes.
It's a passage, not a place to stay.
The sense of loss must give way if we are
to value the life that was lived.

Membership Notes

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Shirley Cushman, Associate Member from Bennington; Michael Forte, Associate Member from Brandon; Robert Helm, from Fair Haven; Steve Reich, Associate Member from Rochester; & David Crosby transfer from At Large membership, from Randolph.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST UPDATE: As of 8-19-96 Chapter 1 has 79 members and Chapter 753 has 74 members. The Chapter with the most members on the January 1997 printout from National wins (Actually VVA wins!).

REMINDER TO NEW MEMBERS: Remember that we are holding new membership applications until October 1, 1996 in order to get you an extra year of membership. Also, we will be sending you a Chapter 1 patch when they arrive.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS...will be coming in the next few months. Suggestion: Many members are going to 3 year memberships for $50, it saves you $10 and then you can just forget it for awhile.

Are you still receiving the newsletter but haven't paid your dues? We want you back. Send in your dues payment to get a current membership card and start receiving the Veteran again.

Dick Doyle
Membership Chairman

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One
Officers and Board of Directors

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President - John Bergeon - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt - No Phone
Vice Presidnet - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305
Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

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formerly

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Has Relocated To
13 Center Street

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

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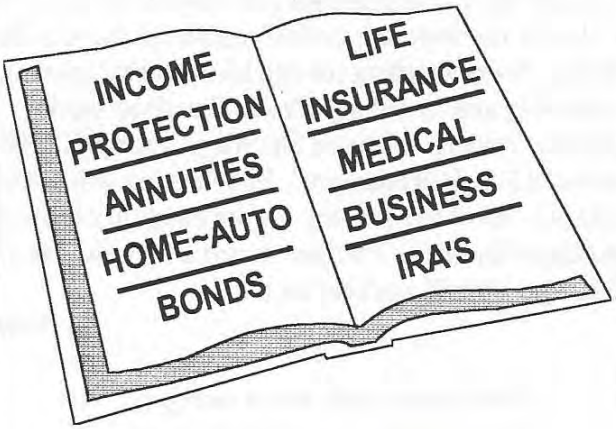

P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

"Closure"

by Dick Doyle

Two years ago I reported on finding Roy Cook, father of KIA Peter Cook that I served with in Vietnam.

On August 15, 1996 Roy and I went to the Peter A. Cook VFW Post #9144 in Clarksburg, Massachusetts and presented a professionally framed picture and awards to the post. Information on Peter's death (along with others) on May 7, 1970 was given. 80 year old Roy Cook was elated...So was I.

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Reported by Bill Barnes

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VEEP'S CORNER

On August 25th, 1996, I took my kids to the Rutland County Airshow, as it is interesting seeing the old planes and some of the new ones that were there.

After waiting in line to see the cockpit of the A10 Warthog, we finally reached the top of the ladder. There we were greeted by her pilot, Capt. Ed Tatro. We talked for a few minutes about the plane and how she handles, all the while feeling like I knew him from somewhere.

He saw my Vietnam Veterans hat and asked me if I was a Vietnam Vet and I answered him yes, 69-70. He then put out his hand for me to shake and it was a firm grip, like we were of common bond and didn't want that moment to end.

I then asked him if he was in Desert Storm and he said no, I was in another Vietnam situation, call Bosnia, and was due to go back in a month or so. It was then that I knew what that bond really meant. We were brothers for those few moments, the past and the present, as one.

I felt weak and unsure of what to say to this young Captain, as this has never happened to me before. The only thing that came to mind was a weak good luck and take care of yourself and your squadron.

I spent the rest of the day with the look on his face etched in my mind. A look that was so hard to describe. The boyish smile and the eyes that quietly said, thank you for caring. Did he feel that bond to? Did he feel the same feeling I had felt, one warrior talking to another and understanding the meanings without having to talk?

Some day maybe both of us will know what that brief encounter will actually mean.

I can only hope that Ed and his fellow pilots will do the jobs they have to do and come home to their loved ones safe and sound.

The spirit of the brotherhood will always be with them and all our men and women in the military.

Steve

October Meeting

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U.S., in 1950s, Knew North Korea Held American POWs

By Philip Shenon, The New York times
Reprinted from The Rutland Herald, September 17, 1996

WASHINGTON - Newly declassified documents show that the United States knew immediately after the Korean War that North Korea had failed to turn over hundreds of American prisoners known to be alive at the end of the war, adding to growing speculation that American prisoners might still be alive and in custody there.

The documents, obtained from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and other government depositories by a congressional committee, show that the Pentagon knew in December 1953 that more than 900 American troops were alive at the end of the war but were never released by the North Koreans.

The documents may only deepen the mystery over the fate of Americans still considered missing from the Korean War. In June, a Defense Department intelligence analyst testified that on the basis of "a recent flurry" of "very compelling reports," he believed that as many as 15 Americans were still being held prisoner in North Korea.

While not dismissing the analyst's report entirely, the Defense Department has said that it has no clear evidence that any American are being held against their will in North Korea, although it has pledged to continue to investigate accounts of defectors and others who say they have seen American prisoners there.

The North Korean government has said that it is not holding any Americans. A handful of American defectors are known to live in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, and some are believed to have appeared in North Korean propaganda films.

The documents were obtained by the House National Security subcommittee on military personnel. Congressional investigators said much of the information was confirmed by a former military aide to President Eisenhower, Col. Phillip Corso.

In a statement prepared for delivery before the House panel on Tuesday, Corso, who is retired, said: "In the past, I have tried to tell Congress the fact that in 1953, 500 sick and wounded American prisoners were within 10 miles of the prisoner exchange point at Panmunjom but were never exchanged." Panmunjom was the site of peace negotiations between the United States and North Korea that ended with an armistice on July 27, 1953.

One of the documents obtained by the House subcommittee, a December 1953 memo that had been on file at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan., shows that 610 "Army people" and 300 Air Force personnel were still being held prisoner by the North Koreans, five months after a prisoner exchange between the United States and North Korea.

The memo said that Eisenhower was "intensely interested" in the fate of "the missing POWs" and that he had wanted to make sure "everybody was doing all they could about it."

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. Next drawing to be held at the October Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

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Phone No.: _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

PAIN AND UNCERTAINTY

- Anonymous -

From out of nowhere come the haunting memories of a time so long ago, when all you could think of was going home and forgetting the things you saw and did.
A time when the memories of war are very much in the present and will always be in my future. The questions are asked and the feelings inside answer like a roaring river.
Am I to ever forget? I don't!!
Am I ever to feel alive inside? I don't!!
I feel tired, as the pain racks my body day in and day out. Does this mean my time is near?
Do I let the darkness have it's way? Or do I fight for another day?
Why do I walk alone when there are so many around me?
Why do the faces of the past still conjure up inside of me?
Does this mean I can't let go of the past, for fear of being alone? Yet alone is where I like to be.
Yea though I walked through the valley of the shadows of death, I will fear no evil, for this is my home.
When my time comes and the end is near, I can finally say, it's been a long journey, WELCOME HOME!

- submitted by Steve Faye -

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Are You Registered?
No Vote, No Voice!

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Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

October, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 10

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

I have some good news, and...I have some more good news. In fact this edition of the newsletter should be called the "Nothing But Good News" Newsletter! I will let the respective committee chairmen break the good news, but I'll give you a hint. Dick's report concerns the number 100, and Andy's is about the future site of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. So if you can't wait to hear the good news, then please skip over my section of the newsletter and read on!

On Sept. 21, 1996 the VVA #1 Color Guard attended the ceremonies at Camp Johnson. This year besides the POW/MIA Recognition Day the Vermont Patriots Medal was awarded to the next of kin of the 108 Vermonters killed in the Vietnam War.

It must have been a bittersweet day for those family members who received the Medal. Even though it has been over 20 years , the pain and anguish of losing a family member at such a young age in a country half way around the world is still there. I'm sure that for the first time some of the families have made their first contact with others who had suffered the same horrific fate. After the ceremony you could see many of them talking and sharing memories. Some of them we got the privilege to hear. For those family members who were not present, a special ceremony in their home town will be attempted. One such ceremony was held for Lance Cpl. John Holland of Brownsville, VT. (See page 3)

There are reports that a similar medal for the Korean and WW II Wars will be struck.

The VVA State Council needs to be thanked for reviving this medal after all these years. Thanks also goes to Rutland's Sen. Tom Macaulay, who was instrumental in seeing that the funds were appropriated for the Patriot's Medal.

Our monthly meeting was held on Oct. 5, 1996 at Sewards Restaurant. We had an excellent attendance and we accomplished a great deal. For the first time we almost kept the meeting to one hour. A Republican Forum was tentatively scheduled for the 7:00 hour. I have to admit I didn't think that any of the candidates were going to show. My reason for thinking this was three weeks prior to the meeting I had spoken to someone at the campaign headquarters and they said they would try to arrange something. I never heard anything from this person so therefore I assumed that the forum was a bust. Fortunately all went according to plans. We would like to thank Libby Sternberg and Greg Thayer for organizing the form. We especially want to thank the following candidates for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend our meeting: Sen. Betty Ferraro, Anne Stratton, Hull Maynard, William Gillam Sr., Tom Palumbo, Sen. Tom Macaulay, John Bloomer Jr., John Carroll and Greg Thayer.

Some of the issues discussed were:

- The flag burning amendment, which will probably be brought up for another vote this session.
- A Veterans health card which could be used anywhere outside the VA Hospital.
- Cutbacks at the VA Hospital

A big topic for the evening centered around the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. It was brought to our attention that the Pledge is only said on Tuesday of each week and that a prayer is said every day before each session begins. The Senate had to have a special vote in order to say the Pledge one day a week. Hopefully this will change to every day in the coming year. Also all of the candidates agreed that the flag should be hung in every class room and that the Pledge should be reinstated at the beginning of each day. The youth of today need to be educated about the American flag and how it should be treated.

The most encouraging thing that came out of this meeting was that if these folks are elected they will try and get funding for our memorial. You will be held accountable on this matter and you will be contacted - I guarantee that.

The next meeting will be Nov. 2 at Sewards Family Restaurant, beginning at 6 pm. Note: the December meeting has tentatively been scheduled to be held in Vergennes at Cliff Adams restaurant "Togos". We will let you know more at a later date.

- John

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

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Chapter One
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Beth Higgins - (802) 468-5652

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

Has Relocated To
13 Center Street

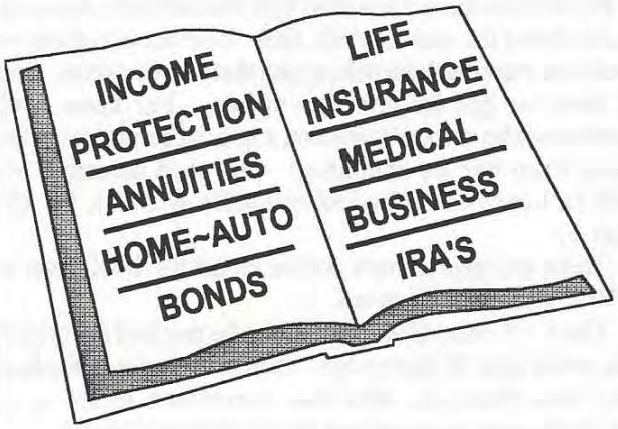
Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

Membership Notes

Century Mark ... 1 hits 100 ... David Jarvie of Chester is Chapter 1's One Hundredth member. He is an Air Force veteran. Congratulations, David, and welcome!

Other new members to be welcomed this month are Paul Virtue of Cambridge, NY (USMC) and Roger Madore of Ossipee, NH (USAF).

Renewal notices will be mailed out in October. Please renew early and consider the three year option, or better yet, Life Membership!

The only news on the membership contest with Chapter 753 is that a "prize" for the winner has been established. The losing chapter must come and present their chapter patch to the winning chapters president (that will be us). Please dig out those VVA memberships I mailed and make an extra effort in the next 2 months to recruit 1 or more new members so we can "win".

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

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Vietnam Vet Earns Award Posthumously

A Windsor soldier who was killed 29 years ago in the Vietnam war has been honored posthumously with the Vermont Patriot's Medal.

Gov. Howard Dean honored U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. John H. Holland at a ceremony Wednesday.

Holland was 21 years old when he was killed in an ambush by Viet Cong soldiers on April 28, 1967. He was remembered after the ceremony as a "very, very quiet farm boy" by his childhood friend, resident Leonard Clough.

Dean presented the medal to retired elementary teacher Beryl Hinton, who several years ago had asked a Vietnam veteran active in veterans affairs to do something to honor Holland.

"The reason that we do things like this and we make a big deal of soldiers who lose their lives is because they're part of the community, Dean told his audience of school children and town residents. "There are too many times in life that we think about all the things that are wrong and we don't think about all the things that are right, the things that John Holland helped us keep."

Dean's brother, Charles Dean, is still listed as missing in action in Laos.

It's an Honor, It's a Privilege,
It's Your Right!
No Vote, No Voice!

November Meeting

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland!
Hope to see you all there!

Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
1. **Northeast Army Navy Surplus**, Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322	**10%**
2. **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**, 13 Center St., Rut.	**10%**
3. **Adirondack Tire Merchants**, Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944	**10-20%**
4. **Army Navy Store**, Center St., Rut., 773-8839	**10%**
5. **Ron's Sunoco**, Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790	**5%**
6. **Sal's Restaurant**, West St., Rut., 775-3360	**10%**
7. **Howard's Sunoco**, S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911	**10%**
8. **Boss Threads**, Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	**10-20%**
9. **Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys**, Center St., Rut., 773-1488	**10-20%**
10. **Buxton's Sunoco**, N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747	**5% off labor & parts**
11. **Bob's Hunting & Fishing**, Chittenden, 773-9507	**10%**
12. **Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.**, Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038	**20%**
13. **Two By Two**-Handmade wooden jewelry, Pittsford, 483-6121	**10%**
14. **Boise's Electrical Service**, Rutland, 747-4481	**10%**
15. **Battery Street Jeans**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	**10%**
16. **Leather Fashions, Inc.**, Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099	**Discount *plus* they pay the tax!**
17. **Lemon Rentals**, Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	**12% on car or van rentals**
18. **McNeil & Reedy, Inc.**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	**10%**
19. **Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen**, 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	**20% off all food items**
20. **Eastman's**, 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutlan,	**10% (custom framing not included)**
21. **The Vacant Chair Restaurant**, 121 West St., Rutland, 775-7708	**25%**
22. **Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair**, 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	**10%**
23. **A & J Auto Parts**, 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	**10% (except on sale items)**
24. **Classic Stitching**, Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	**10%**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Articles & Ads for the Newsletter may be mailed directly to the editor:
Beth Higgins
RD 1 Box 88A
Castleton, VT 05735

Deadline: 10th of each month

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. Next drawing to be held at the January Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No.: _____

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New ____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New ____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

VETERANS' DAY

November 11, 1996

Excerpt from

The Young Dead Soldiers

by Archibald MacLeish.

...We were young. We have died. Remember us.
...We have done what we could but until it is finished it is not done.
...We have given our lives but until it is finished no one can know what our lives gave.
...Our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean what you make them.
...Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this.
...We leave you our deaths. Give them meaning. We were young...We have died. Remember us.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

November, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 11

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

VETERANS' DAY

November 11, 1996

Veteran's Day 1996 was an eventful and busy one for some of the members of VVA #1.

The morning was cool and crisp but sunny for our 10:00 am kickoff ceremonies at the future site of the Rutland County Vietnam Vets Memorial. For those of you who aren't yet aware, VVA #1 is planning a memorial which will be placed in the park on Route 7 south of the Main St. Park.

The VVA #1 Color Guard, along with friends and relatives held a brief symbolic ceremony to kick off our RCVVM Initiative. I would like to thank Liz Anderson and Vyto Starinskas of the Rutland Herald for their story and photo which appeared in the Tuesday edition. Great photo of Bill and Tom. It's amazing how today's technology can enhance ones appearance.

Hopefully a year from now we will be attending a dedication ceremony, but there is a lot of hard work between now and then.

From there we went to the American Legion to take part in the Annual Veterans Day ceremonies...I was impressed to see that the hall was packed. There were many youngsters there in attendance, which is encouraging. The Mayor of Rutland and the American Legion State Commander were the keynote speakers. As usual it was followed with a lunch provided by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Later in the day, at 4:30, one of our talented members from Vergennes performed his play, From Vietnam to Vermont; a 3,000 Year Odyssey. Cliff Adams, who wrote the play, played himself and John Ball played Odysseus. The performance was held in the Fox Room at the Rutland Free Library. This was basically a preview for some of us. Cliff will be performing this excellent play another time in the Rutland area.

The final event that I attended that day was also at the Fox Room. The Friends of the Rutland Free Library sponsored a presentation of Auschwitz to Vietnam, A Walk for Peace, an account by Deb Habib and her husband Rick Baruc of their 7 month journey with the Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace and Life. They showed slides of their walk which led them through countries like Israel, Poland, Germany, Turkey, Iraq, Thailand, Vietnam and others.

The journey began in December 1994 in Auschwitz Concentration Camp and ended in Hirroshima, Japan. The group consisted of people from all over the world and included two Vietnam Vets. Deb and Rick said that it was a very humbling experience for them to visit areas of the world that have been ravaged by war in the past and are currently in the throes of conflict.

At the concentration camp they saw a S.S. Officer and a Auschwitz survivor meet, and they are currently traveling together and giving speeches throughout Europe.

In Iraq they met some school boys who lost many of their classmates. They perished while in a bomb shelter just outside of their school. Apparently, during the Gulf War, their shelter was struck by a smart bomb and the impact jammed all of the doors and turned the sprinkler system on and everyone in the shelter drowned.

While in Vietnam all you saw were billboards of companies from all over the world advertising their business. They spoke to many of the South Vietnamese soldiers who fought along side of the Americans. They showed a slide of a gentleman who was selling watches, lighters and other items which were taken from the American GIs. Deb said that a lot of the lighters had the names of their owners on them. She also said that she wanted to buy everything and bring them back to the states to give to the next of kin.

All in all Veterans Day 1996 was filled with many mixed emotions. One that I will not soon forget.

The December meeting will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 4:00 PM at Togos Restaruant in Vergennes. Togos is located on Main Street. It is owned and operated by Cliff Adams, member of VVA #1. Hope to see you there.

John

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One
Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President - John Bergeon - 13 Center Street, Rutland, Vt - No Phone
Vice President - Steve Faye - (802) 773-7305
Secretary - Bill Barnes - (802) 265-8755
Treasurer - Jon Pintello - (802) 265-8602

Board Members

Dick Doyle - (802) 885-2167 - Work - E:Mail - RDOYLE@mail.det.state.vt.us
Frank Bump - (802) 247-6980
Bill Whitney - (802) 875-2640
Bill Picknell - (802) 767-9874
Bill Higgins - (802) 468-5652
Beth Higgins - (802) 468-5652

Downtown Has Sole
Shoe Repair

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

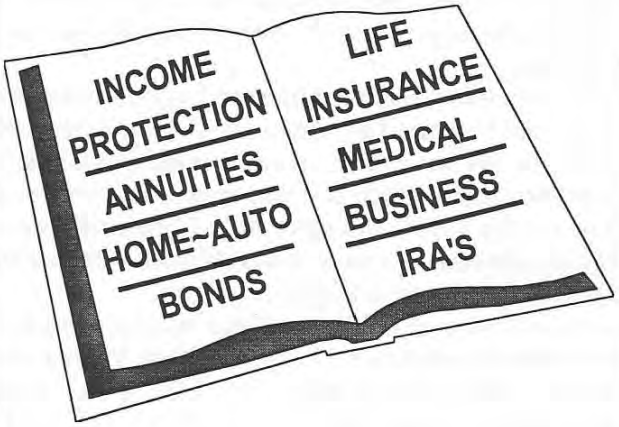
Product Sales for VVA #1
Military Pins, Patches, Stickers, Buckles, etc.

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Mon..-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

JON PINTELLO
INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

Wall Replica to be Dedicated in Charleston

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes

Washington, DC - The Wall That Heals - "the new, official traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: - will be unveiled 8 Nov. and dedicated 10 Nov. in Charleston, SC, to launch a nationwide tour "aimed at bringing the healing power of the Memorial to America's hometowns," according to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (VVMF)

At the unveiling of the half-scale replica of The Wall in Washington, DC, a full reading of the names of the 58,000 Americans killed in Vietnam will begin and continue through a five-day exhibition ending on Veterans Day 11 Nov.

"We are deeply honored that Charleston has been chosen to be the site of this dedication," said Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. "To see the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, is a very moving and thoughtful experience. Our long history with the nation's military forces has given Charleston a strong link with veterans and those still on active duty."

"The Wall That Heals lets us extend the outreach of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to veterans of all wars," said VVMF President Jan Scruggs. "The Wall in Washington has played a unique role in helping people, particularly young people, understand the sacrifice of all veterans. This touring initiative allows us to acknowledge the greater circle of healing, and to do our part to give all veterans their due."

Veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm will participate in the dedication, and an organizing committee of local veterans groups is being formed.

After leaving Charleston, The Wall That Heals will travel throughout the south, moving northward as warm weather returns in late spring.

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VA Medical & Regional Office Center Voluntary Service

This letter was recently received by Chapter 1.

Thank you for your inquiry as to the needs of the patients at the VAM&ROC, at White River Junction. The following items have been identified by staff and patients as valuable additions to our commitment to providing comfort and recreation to hospitalized veterans and to veterans involved with the VA outpatient services. Potential donors are requested to contact either Betty A. Petrie, Chief, Voluntary & Public Affairs or Joan Berry, Voluntary Service Specialist at 802 296-5190 prior to making a donation. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 to 4:30 pm.

VCR - Our new ward for intermediate care patients and psychiatric patients need a new VCR to replace a broken one. Both groups enjoy watching movies in the evenings and on weekends. VCR must be UL approved and we would recommend a name brand with a reputation for quality products.

Toiletry Articles- Small or travel size containers of toothpaste, denture cleaner, deodorant, shampoo, shave cream/gel. Also needed are: toothbrushes, denture brushes, combs, hair brushes, and disposable razors.

T-Shirts (white) and Socks (white) - Our patients comfort is our number one priority in voluntary Service. If they are cold, we make every attempt to create the warm environment they need my providing extra heat and blankets. Sometimes an extra tee shirt and warm socks do the trick. Medium and large sizes only, please.

Room Decor - We are making final plans to open our new Lodger rooms. These rooms will permit outpatients from far distances to spend the night with us when they need to have treatments or procedures over the course of a few days. Since these patients are not hospitalized and very independent, they need to stay in rooms which have a warm, homelike atmosphere. We will need framed, fine art prints, silk floral/plant arrangements, clock-radios for the bedside, magazine racks, floor lamps and a telephone for each room. Initially we need to have 15 of each item and individual prices on the items range from about $10.00 for the phone to approximately $75.00 for good quality floor lamps. The cost per room is estimated at $200.00 for all items.

Editor's Note: Chapter 1 sent a $50 donation to this worthy cause.

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22. **A & J Auto Parts**, 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	**10% (except on sale items)**
23. **Classic Stitching**, Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	**10%**
24. **Pasqually's**, 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	**10%**
25. **Paul's Family Restaurant**, Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	**10%, eat-in or take-out**
26. **Kehoe's Corner Deli**, 99 Crescent St., Rutland, 775-5569	**5% Deli Meats, 10% Large Sub**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

"CHISELED IN STONE"

AS I STAND HERE ALONE
AND GAZE AT "THE WALL"
OUT OF THE SILENCE
I HEAR THE "NAM" CALL

IT'S THE SAME NOW
AS THEN LONG AGO
THE PAIN? IT'S WITH ME
RIGHTFULLY SO

THE SOUNDS AND SMELLS
AND THIS DREAD THAT I FEEL
ALL OF THE MEMORIES
ARE NOW JUST AS REAL

THE DAYS WERE ENDLESS
NIGHTS JUST AS LONG
CAN'T COUNT ON TOMORROW
WE'RE SEARCHING OUT "CONG"

THE DARK PREMONITIONS
YOU CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE
WATCHING AND FEARING
THE NEXT STEP THAT YOU TAKE

SENSING THAT DEATH
IS BUT A HEARTBEAT AWAY
YOU FIGHT OFF THE TERROR
AND YOU SILENTLY PRAY

TO A GOD NON-EXISTENT
WHO WAS PUT ON THE SHELF
BUT WHO'S NOW MORE IMPORTANT
THAN ANYTHING ELSE

YOU'RE OVER THE EDGE
WITH THE SLIGHTEST OF PUSH
YOU'RE BORDERLINE "SCITZ-O"
OUT HERE IN THE BUSH

IT'S ONLY A DREAM
YOU'RE DESPERATE TO FEEL
BUT THIS CORNER OF HELL
IS MORE THAN REAL

THE CHATTER OF GUNFIRE
AND THE SWIFT CHOPPER BLADES
ARE MY CONSTANT COMPANIONS.....
....LIKE BEING AFRAID

SURVIVAL IS ONLY
ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS
NAMES CAN'T KEEP UP
WITH ALL OF THE FACES

THEY CAME AND THEY DIED
WITH MORBID ROUTINE
SLAIN BY ENEMY MOSTLY
....SILENT...UNSEEN...

PATRIOTIC THEY WERE
IN HONORING THEIR FLAG
AND THEY LEFT THE NAM
IN BLACK BODY BAGS

BUT THEIR NAMES ARE ALL HERE
....THERE'S THIS CHILL IN MY BONE...
FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND
....CHISELED IN STONE .....

Downloaded from America OnLine. Written June 26, 1992 by ex-Marine SGT. Dwight "Ike" Gauley Ringwood, Okla., (In-country '68-69).
A brother, CAPT. James Paul Gauley never came home from Laos after being shot down on 01\10\67 (his father's birthday) in the F-105 "THUD". This poem was finally written after 25 years of trying to put feelings into words that was impossible to do until viewing "THE WALL". I dedicate it to all whose names appear there.

IKE GAULEY

Membership Notes

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Thomas Palumbo, an Associate member from Rutland, was in the USMC; and Pasquale Serio, also of Rutland, who is a Vietnam Era Vet.

Now that we have broken the 100 member barrier, we are setting a modest new goal of 125. It can be done! Hats off to the key 8-10 people that have done most of the recruiting. You know who you are.

Reminders:

- If you move, let us know your new address.
- If you aren't getting the Veteran magazine, let us know.
- If you have issues/views you would like to air, let us know.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

Color Guard Report

The last official event for the Color Guard was on Veterans Day, 11 November, 1996, with a ground breaking ceremony for the Rutland County Vietnam Veteran Memorial at the park on Main Street; and with services held at the American Legion Post 31 in Rutland.

Great job everyone! Have a safe winter and we will see you next spring.

"BE READY FOR DRILLS AS WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN MORE EVENTS, INCLUDING CANADA".

Tom Reardon, Color Guard Captain

Some Still Wait!

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. Next drawing to be held at the January Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to: VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702 or Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735.

Articles & Ads for the Newsletter may be mailed directly to the editor:
Beth Higgins
RD 1 Box 88A
Castleton, VT 05735

Deadline: 10th of each month

Paul's Family Restaurant
Jct. Rt. 7 & 140
Wallingford, VT
446-2150

Serving Breakfast at 5:30 a.m.
Tuesday - Friday
New Lunch & Dinner Menus
Daily Lunch Specials

Serving Breakfast Saturday 7:00 a.m.
Special Sunday Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

"Come In And Try Us Out"
"Weekly One-Way Pizza Drawing"
"Monthly Pizza Party Drawing"

"Home of the Famous Paul's Pizza"

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 sells space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space is available at the following rates:

Business Card Size - $5.00 per month
1/4 page - $10.00 per month
1/2 page - $20.00 per month
Full page - $40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or VVA #1 PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for ads is the 10th of each month.

Murphy's Military Laws of Combat

Part one of Murphy's Law of Combat, submitted by several people, in several forms.

1. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
2. No battle plan ever survives with the enemy.
   Field Marshal Helmuth Carl Bernard von Moltke
3. Friendly fire ain't.
4. The most dangerous thing in the combat zone is an officer with a map.
5. The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
6. The buddy system is essential to your survival; it gives the enemy somebody else to shoot at.
7. The further you are in advance of your own positions, the more likely your artillery will shoot short.
8. Incoming fire has the right of way.
9. If your advance is going well, you are walking into an ambush.
10. The quartermaster has only two sizes, too large and too small.
11. If you really need an officer in a hurry, take a nap.
12. The only time suppressive fire works is when it is used on abandoned positions.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

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Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____ New____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

December Meeting Has New Location!

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 4 pm at Togos Restaurant on Main Street in Vergennes. Member Cliff Adams offered the use of his restaurant for the meeting. It's a great opportunity for all our 'Northern' Members to attend the meeting! Hope to see you all there!

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day - 1997

The 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, 9 August 1997, will be hosted by Chapter One in Rutland.

We have the use of the Fairground for this function. Currently Carol and I are in the process of getting the list of vendors and crafters to invite together. We hope to have all invitations out by 1 January, 1997.

We are also preparing the list of Veteran organizations to invite and hope to have these out by 1 January, 1997 as well.

Anyone wishing to help with the organizing of this event please contact Tom and Carol Reardon at 518-499-2488 (evenings).

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

RUTLAND REPUBLIC OF VERMONT

December, 1996 • Newsletter • Number 3, Vol. 12

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

As the mysterious yellow cloud approached the British troops, they didn't know what to make of it and were unsure how to react. Once they were overtaken by this evil cloud it was to late to react, and the majority of them died an unspeakable death.

The date was April, 1915 and the Germans had released 6,000 cylinders of chlorine gas. This was the first ever use of chemical weapons used against an adversary on a large scale.

In 1917 the Germans used Mustard Gas against their enemies. Because of this horrific deed precipitated by the Germans during WWI the Geneva Protocol resulted. This essentially banned any further use of chemical weapons by any country at any time. This also included Biological weapons.

Currently, supposedly the only chemical research in place in our country is the Active Defense Program. This program is researching ways to defend military personnel in the field against the release of chemical and biological weapons. So, in order to perform the proper experimentation they need the chemical and biological weapons that may be used against them. So, this is a little loophole that is being used by everyone.

In 1972 the Biological Treaty was signed. This would ban all research and use. During the 80's Iraq was allowed to use chemical and biological weapons during some of their local conflicts. The USA and her European allies knew of this and basically looked the other way. Because of this there are now 15-17 countries that possess these weapons.

That brings us to the Post-Gulf War Era. There isn't a day that goes by that there isn't a news item that pertains to the *"Mysterious Gulf War Syndrome"*.

Why doesn't the Pentagon just admit they made a mistake and do the right thing? But, **NO**, they make all these vets and their families jump through the hoops and spend all those stressful days and months trying to resolve these problems.

I would think that the powers that be would have learned their lesson after the War in Vietnam with Agent Orange. Who says history does not repeat itself?

For the past five years the Pentagon has subscribed to the law of self-preservation and has admitted to nothing. This physical anomaly has been called numerous things: stress from the war; reaction to the oil fires; reaction to the pills that they were given to combat the effects of chemical or biological weapons. Some scientists stated that there was no link to chemical weapons and the veteran's illness. Even Generals Schwartzkopf and Powell denied the connection.

You just knew that if this dragged on long enough that the "Nixon Syndrome" would enter into the fray. It seems that key military logs for a crucial eight day period have mysteriously been lost.

They were kept by General S. and his senior staff at the wartime headquarters in Riyadh. This included March, 1991 when the Kamisiyah ammunition depot was destroyed. It wasn't until this past May that this event was exposed. Up till then the Pentagon had denied that this had ever happened. Of course an intensive search and rescue of these papers are taking place as we speak..."Good Luck"!!

Fortunately, because of the efforts of Jim Jeffords and Bernie Sanders, Congressional hearings took place during the week of Dec. 10th. Persian Gulf War Veterans including those from Vermont testified at those hearings.

Some of the findings are as follows: sensor alarms were triggered and ignored by military commanders; When two soldiers reported that their Fox Vehicle detected chemicals their superiors either dismissed or ignored them.

The main focus of these hearings is to make sure that the VA adopts new protocol to address the illness of the Gulf War Vets and their families.

So hopefully they will keep the pressure on and this matter will be resolved in a shorter time than the Agent Orange situation. Please, all of you keep writing your Congress people and let them know your feelings. Thank you.

The first meeting of 1997 will be held January 4th, at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland at 6:00. Hope to see you all there, lets start the New Year off the right way!

John

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One
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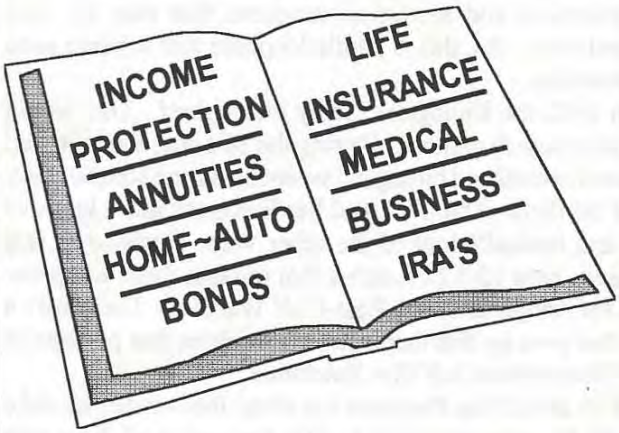

P.O. Box 83
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265-8602

Season's Greetings

The Board of Directors of VVA #1 would like to wish all of you a joyful Holiday Season. Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year. We realize this can be a stressful time of year for a lot of you for various reasons. So take a breather, kick back and "Chill"!

Honor the Vet Program

The current participants of the Honor the Vet Program are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT
1. **Northeast Army Navy Surplus**, Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322	**10%**
2. **Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair**, 13 Center St., Rut.	**10%**
3. **Adirondack Tire Merchants**, Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944	**10-20%**
4. **Army Navy Store**, Center St., Rut., 773-8839	**10%**
5. **Ron's Sunoco**, Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790	**5%**
6. **Sal's Restaurant**, West St., Rut., 775-3360	**10%**
7. **Howard's Sunoco**, S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911	**10%**
8. **Boss Threads**, Diamond Run Mall, Rutland	**10-20%**
9. **Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys**, Center St., Rut., 773-1488	**10-20%**
10. **Buxton's Sunoco**, N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747	**5% off labor & parts**
11. **Bob's Hunting & Fishing**, Chittenden, 773-9507	**10%**
12. **Greg Barsanti, C.P.A.**, Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038	**20%**
13. **Two By Two**-Handmade wooden jewelry, Pittsford, 483-6121	**10%**
14. **Boise's Electrical Service**, Rutland, 747-4481	**10%**
15. **Battery Street Jeans**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445	**10%**
16. **Leather Fashions, Inc.**, Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099	**Discount *plus* they pay the tax!**
17. **Lemon Rentals**, Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460	**12% on car or van rentals**
18. **McNeil & Reedy, Inc.**, Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760	**10%**
19. **Back Home Cafe/Clem's Kitchen**, 21 Center St., Rutland, 775-9313	**20% off all food items**
20. **Eastman's**, 66-70 Merchant's Row, Rutland,	**10% (custom framing not included)**
21. **Ole Time Watch and Jewelry Repair**, 3 Strongs Ave., Rutland, VT	**10%**
22. **A & J Auto Parts**, 176 West St., Rutland, 775-5584	**10% (except on sale items)**
23. **Classic Stitching**, Computerized Embroidery, 185 Main St., Vergennes, 877-3659	**10%**
24. **Pasqually's**, 162 N. Main St., Rutland, 775-7040	**10%**
25. **Paul's Family Restaurant**, Jct. Rts 7 & 140, Wallingford, 446-2150	**10%, eat-in or take-out**
26. **Kehoe's Corner Deli**, 99 Crescent St., Rutland, 775-5569	**5% Deli Meats, 10% Large Sub**
27. **Sevigny's Hunting & Fishing**, 236 Main St., W. Rutland, 438-2977	**10%**
28. **Freeman Jewelers**, 76 Merchants Row, 773-2792	**10%**
29. **Jake's Light Trucking**, W. Rutland, 438-5133	**10%**
30. **Big Daddy's Used Cars**, Center Rutland, 438-2558	**5% on truck accessories**

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

VEEP'S CORNER

Now that Thanksgiving and Christmas are over and New Year's Eve is upon us, I like to take this time of year to reflect on the past year and find the good and bad of the past year.

The one thing that sticks out in my mind is the candidates night that Chapter One held in October. That meeting made me realize why there are so many problems with our young people today and why holidays like Memorial and Veterans Days are no longer recognized to any great degree, especially Veterans Day.

When I was in school, we had to learn about our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Now days that is not really mentioned to any great degree and is hurriedly gone through for something more important, like the cause of gang violence or how to use condoms as water balloon 101.

A whole generation has gone through the syste being taught why we have Memorial Day or ho ans feel on their special day. An insight to this problem certainly stems from the Veteran's Community itself.

Many of us went into hiding after Korea and certainly after Vietnam. We did not talk about the war and definitely not about our feelings. With this silence came the non recognition of why we went to war in the first place. The schools had not much to fall back on and thus our children were left in the cold about the freedoms we enjoy.

In turn they found a government that CAN NOT be trusted, churches teaching bigotry and hate and a NEW Constitution that says it is all right if you desecrate the American Flag. Side Note: Vermonters should be real proud of themselves, they are the ONLY state in the Union that has not PASSED a Flag Amendment!! Congratulations, Vermont!!

No wonder our children are growing up without a purpose or direction when they are not taught what is right and what is wrong. They are not taught what the price of freedom really means, instead they see only the violence that rack our streets day in and day out. Just because our skins are not the same color or our sexual preferences are not the same as the SO CALLED norm, we have learned to hate these heathens, as the churches once called them.

Our children don't know what the true meaning of that part of the Constitution that says, "That all men are created equal" and that this government is of the people, by the people and for the people. What it doesn't say is, if you are part of the so called MORAL MAJORITY, or what I refer to as the IMMORAL MAJORITY!!

Do we always have to hate each other just because we don't agree with one's views on politics, religion or sexual preference? Why can't the people of the United States practice what they have preached from the beginning of our country's conception and the true meaning of Christmas, good will towards ALL.

We as a bleeding heart nation don't have to worry about foreign powers taking us into the dirt, we are doing that on our own from within.

Teach our children the true meaning of freedom, what the word Veteran stands for and how he or she got that title. Believe in the God of your choice, not what is preached in churches by bigoted preachers and believe in the capabilities of our own true convictions in our lives and what made this country great.

Merry Christmas!

Steve

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY!

The Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee Report

by John Bergeron, Chapter President

We took our show on the road. In November Andy, Tom and myself attended the Veterans Council meeting. Andy and I discussed the Memorial and Tom discussed the upcoming Recognition Day. We were well received and hopefully will be getting some bucks.

On Monday December 2, Tom and I attended the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club held at Sabby's Restaurant in Rutland. There were approximately 30 businesses from the area in attendance. We were well received and after our presentation we had a question and answer session. Most of the members seemed mildly interested. We were assured by the President that they would donate some monies to the Memorial. It just so happens that the current President is a Vietnam Vet and a member of VVA #1. We would like to thank Pasquale Serio for the invitation and the free meal. Yes, we were forced to eat some of the great food that Sabby's serves. They never told me that this position of President of VVA #1 would be so demanding. Well, some one has to do it!

State Council Meeting

Vietnam Veterans of America State Council meeting will be held on January 25th, 1997. The meeting was pushed back due to John Minor's presence at the State Council Presidents meeting in San Diego on January 18.

I feel it is important that John go to this meeting to find out what is happening on the national Board as we have information that there is a shake up going on and we should know all the facts as somewhere down the road it will probably affect us. I would like to see ALL the delegates and officers at this State Council meeting as they are only happening every quarter.

On behalf of the State Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

See you at the meeting.

Steve

Veteran License Plate Update

We will in the next couple of weeks be starting our campaign on the Veterans License Plates. We are asking all our chapters to contact their local Representatives and see if they will help us get this effort passed. It is long overdue and with the decline in Veterans Benefits, we need something to be proud of, not only for today, but also for our future Veterans.

I am going to try and get a sketch together to show what we would like the plates to look like and get them out to our Representatives and the Veteran Community as a whole. They will be on the basis of the Purple Heart Plates I will keep you updated as we go along. If you have any questions or suggestions you can drop me a line at: Steve Faye, PO Box 6067, Rutland, VT 05702, or call me at my work number 802-773-7305.

Spina Bifida Association of America

On September 26, 1996 President Clinton signed into law a new health care provision that provides life time health care benefits, a monthly allowance, and vocational training for children of Vietnam veterans who were born with spina bifida.

AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS ACT OF 1996 BECOMES LAW!!!

Are you a Vietnam Veteran?
Do you have a child with spina bifida?

If you answered "yes" to BOTH of these questions, please call the Spina Bifida Association of America at 202-944-3285.

Articles & Ads for the Newsletter may be mailed directly to the editor:
Beth Higgins
RD 1 Box 88A
Castleton, VT 05735

Deadline: 10th of each month

Quarterly 50/50 Raffle to benefit VVA Chapter #1

Fill in this ticket, clip & return it with $5.00 to VVA Chapter #1. Next drawing to be held at the January Meeting. Winner takes 50% of pot. No limit on tickets sold.

Name: _____
Address: _____
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All But Nine

Years ago in times of war
My mind rambling could take no more
My thoughts ever searching for a sign
I cared no more for all but nine.

I knew that when things were done
There were those that cared for the one.
They would be marching, those men of nine
To lay me to rest the final time.

Six would carry me on a quiet day
Two would guard and clear the way
One would count the cadence in slow time
While others watched, that is all but nine.

As it was I lived the times of war
My thoughtS do not ramble anymore.
But I know there will be another time
When I wouldn't care for all but nine.

SFC Tommy J. Roberts, Sr.
17 January, 1996
Magnolia, MS
Vietnam Vet - '66-'67

January Meeting to be Held at Seward's

The next meeting of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 will be held on Saturday, January 4th at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main St. in Rutland.

ARTICLES NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to: VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702 or Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with $20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Home Phone: _____

_____Vietnam Era _____ New_____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New_____ Renewal

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1997

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

REMEMBER, FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRINK AND DRIVE!

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEARS EVE!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."